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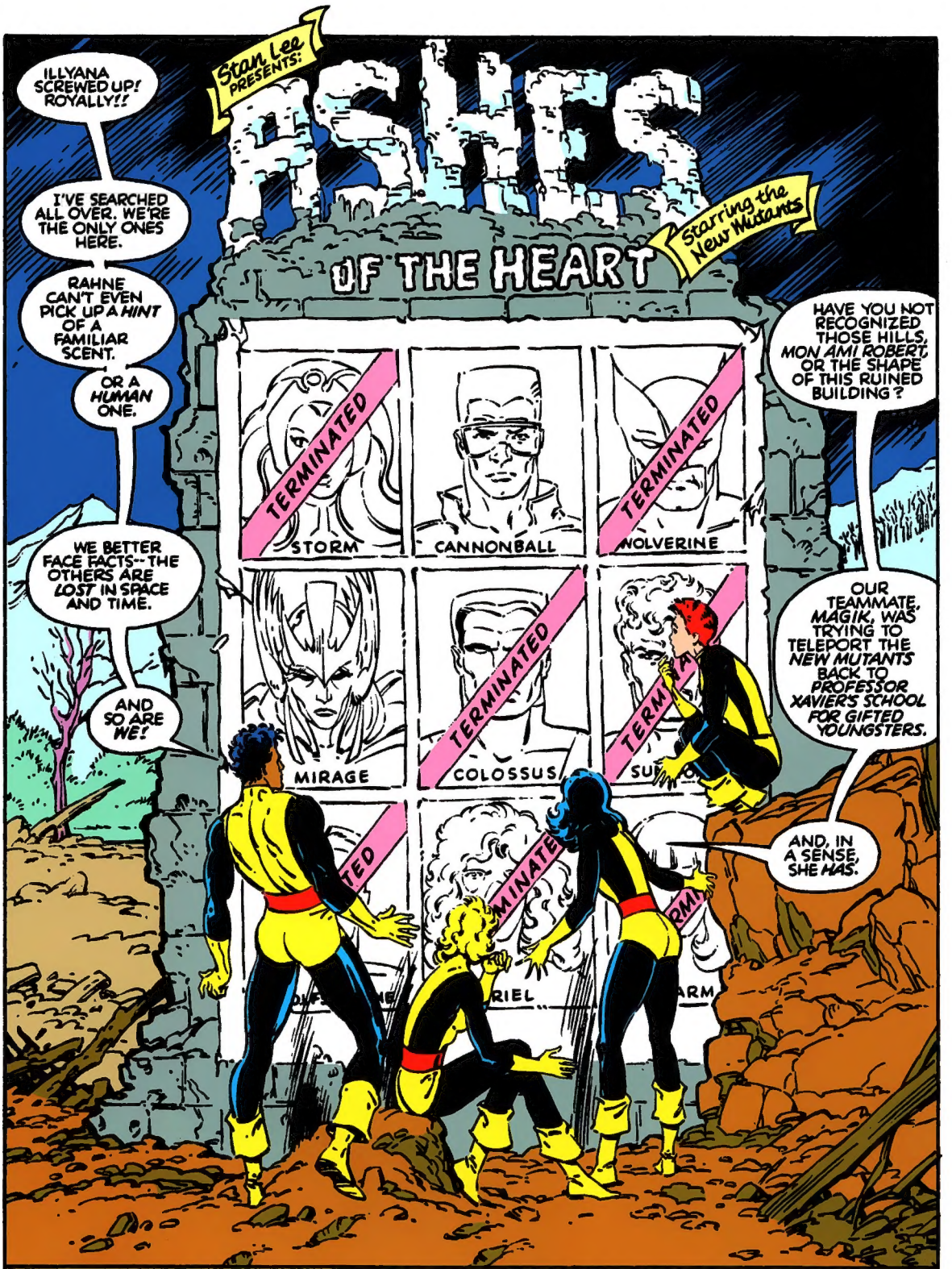
FEB
THE NEW
MUTANTS®


Stan Lee PRESENTS:
ILLYANA SCREWED UP! ROYALLY!!
I'VE SEARCHED ALL OVER. WE'RE THE ONLY ONES HERE.
RAHNE CAN'T EVEN PICK UP A HINT OF A FAMILIAR SCENT.
OR A HUMAN ONE.
WE BETTER FACE FACTS--THE OTHERS ARE LOST IN SPACE AND TIME.
AND SO ARE WE!
ASHES OF THE HEART
Starring the New Mutants
HAVE YOU NOT RECOGNIZED THOSE HILLS, MON AMI ROBERT, OR THE SHAPE OF THIS RUINED BUILDING?
OUR TEAMMATE, MAGIK, WAS TRYING TO TELEPORT THE NEW MUTANTS BACK TO PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.
AND, IN A SENSE, SHE HAS.
TERMINATED
STORM
CANNONBALL
WOLVERINE
MIRAGE
COLOSSUS

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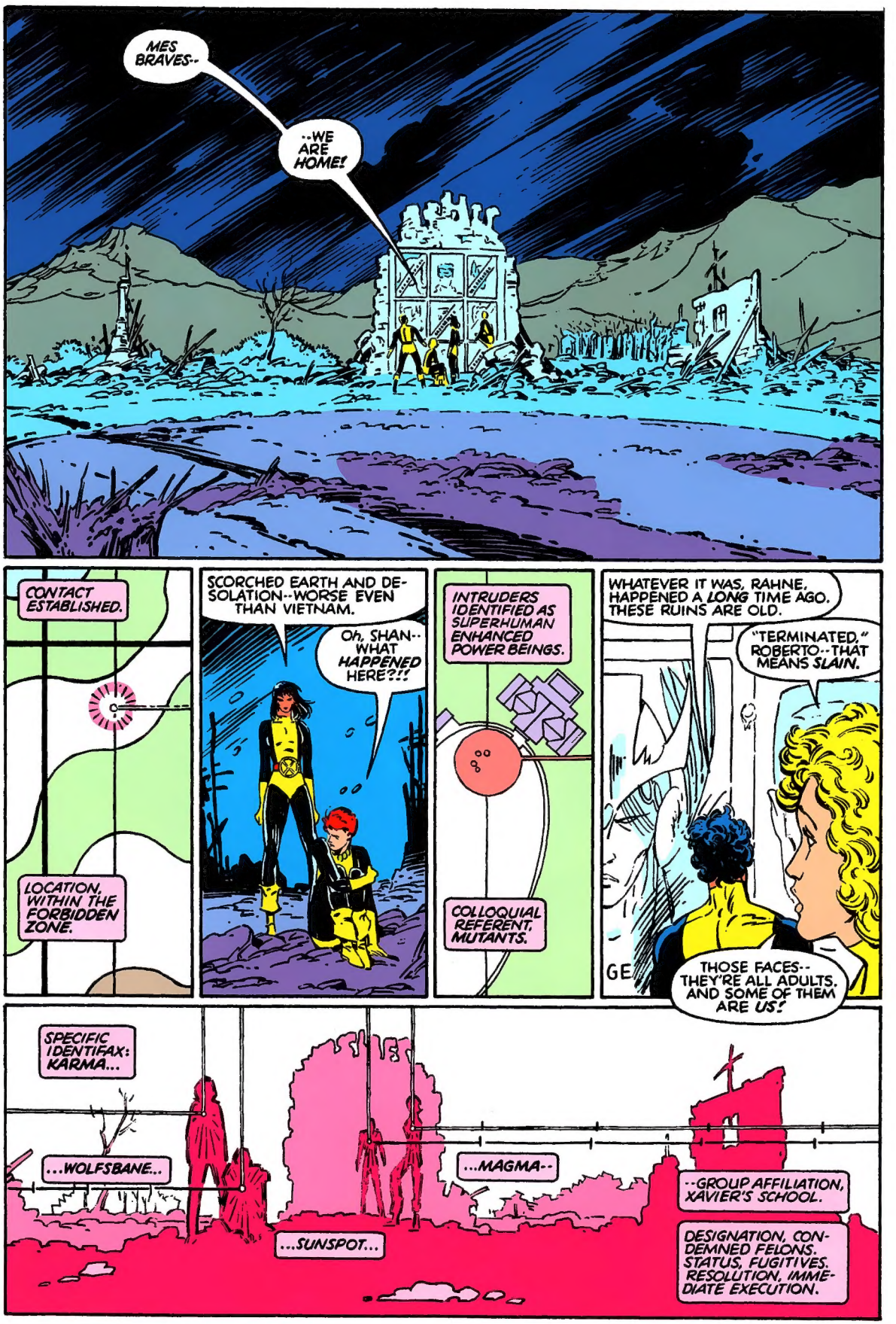
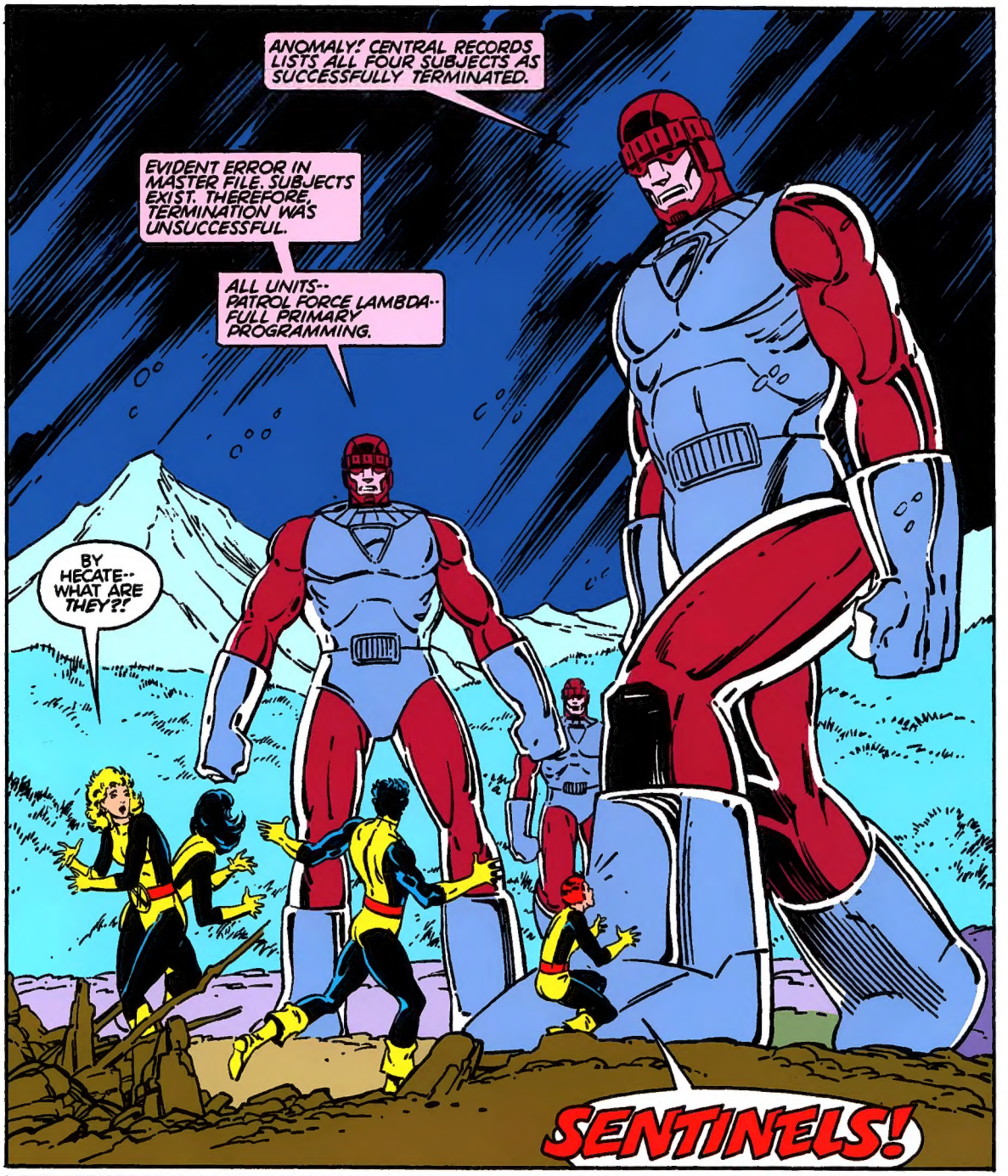
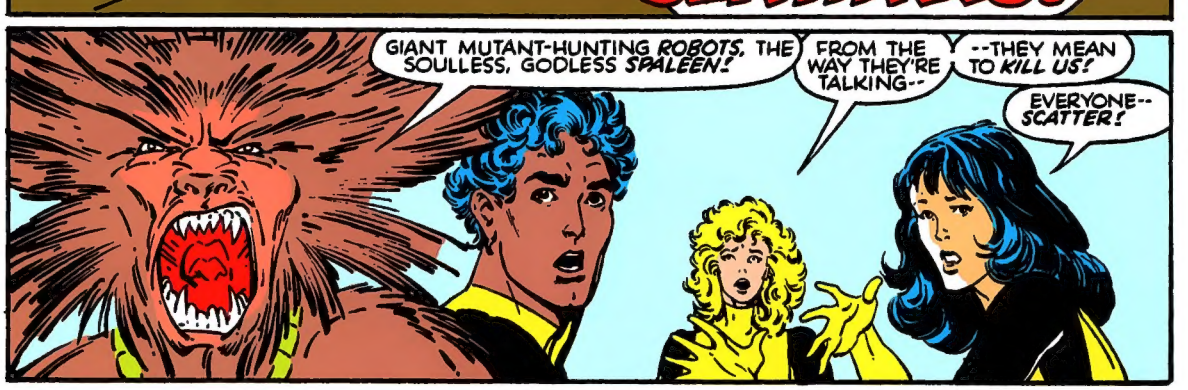
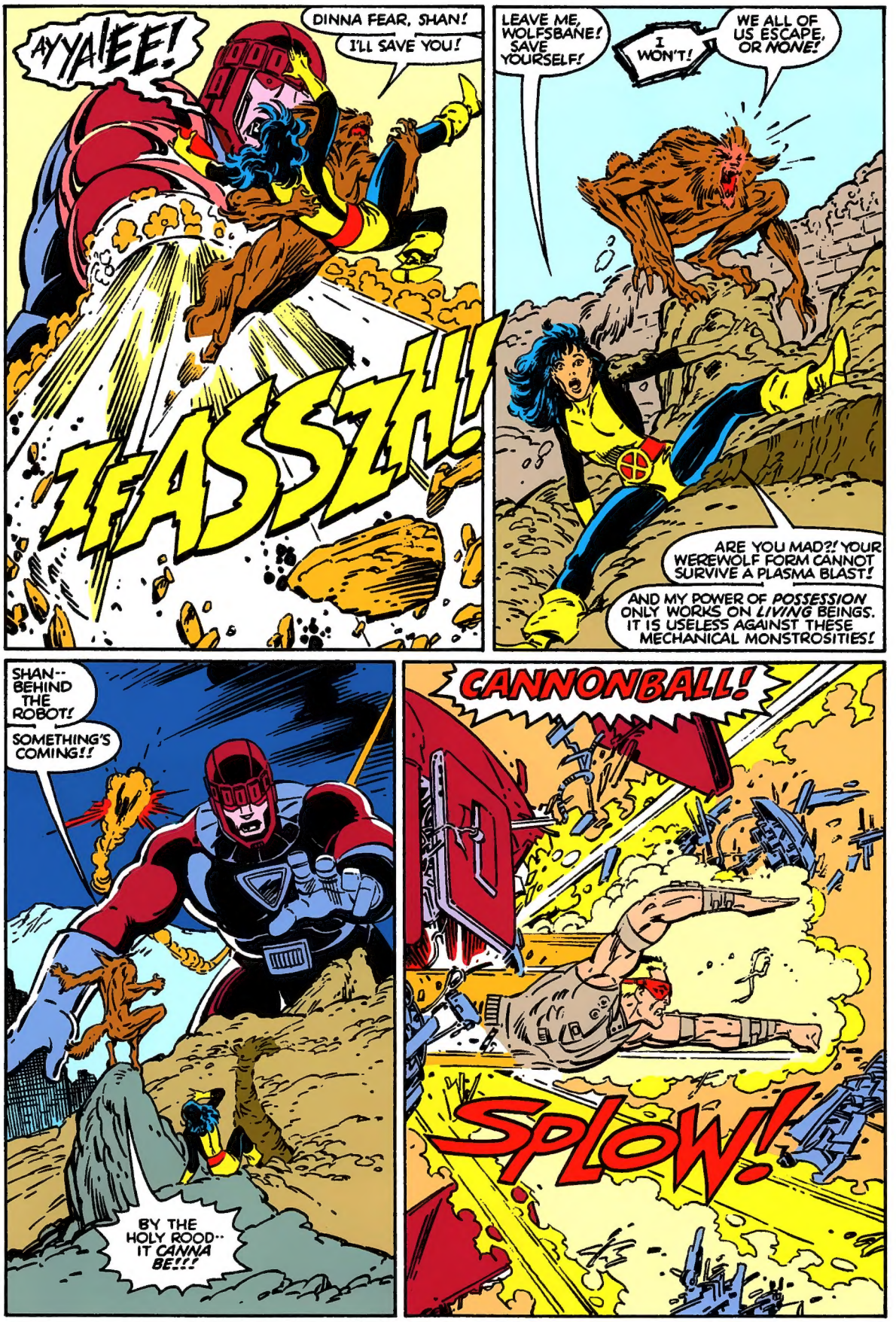
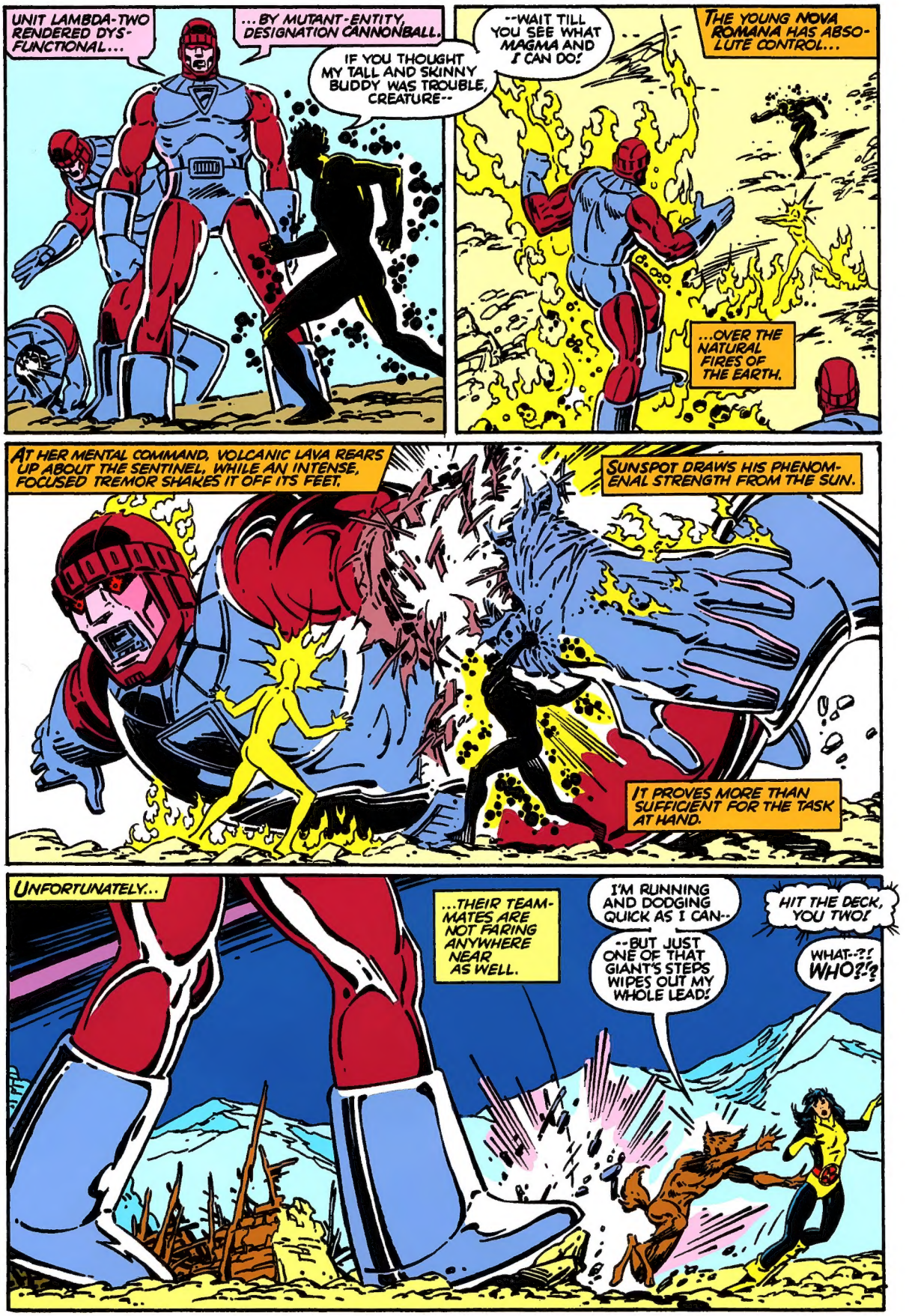

MES BRAVES--
--WE ARE HOME!
CONTACT ESTABLISHED.
LOCATION, WITHIN THE FORBIDDEN ZONE.
SCORCHED EARTH AND DESOLATION--WORSE EVEN THAN VIETNAM.
Oh, SHAN--WHAT HAPPENED HERE?!!
INTRUDERS IDENTIFIED AS SUPERHUMAN ENHANCED POWER BEINGS.
COLLOQUIAL REFERENT, MUTANTS.
WHATEVER IT WAS, RAHNE, HAPPENED A LONG TIME AGO. THESE RUINS ARE OLD.
"TERMINATED," ROBERTO--THAT MEANS SLAIN.
THOSE FACES--THEY'RE ALL ADULTS. AND SOME OF THEM ARE US!
SPECIFIC IDENTIFAX: KARMA...
...WOLFSBANE...
...SUNSPOT...
...MAGMA--
--GROUP AFFILIATION, XAVIER'S SCHOOL.
DESIGNATION, CONDEMNED FELONS. STATUS, FUGITIVES. RESOLUTION, IMMEDIATE EXECUTION.

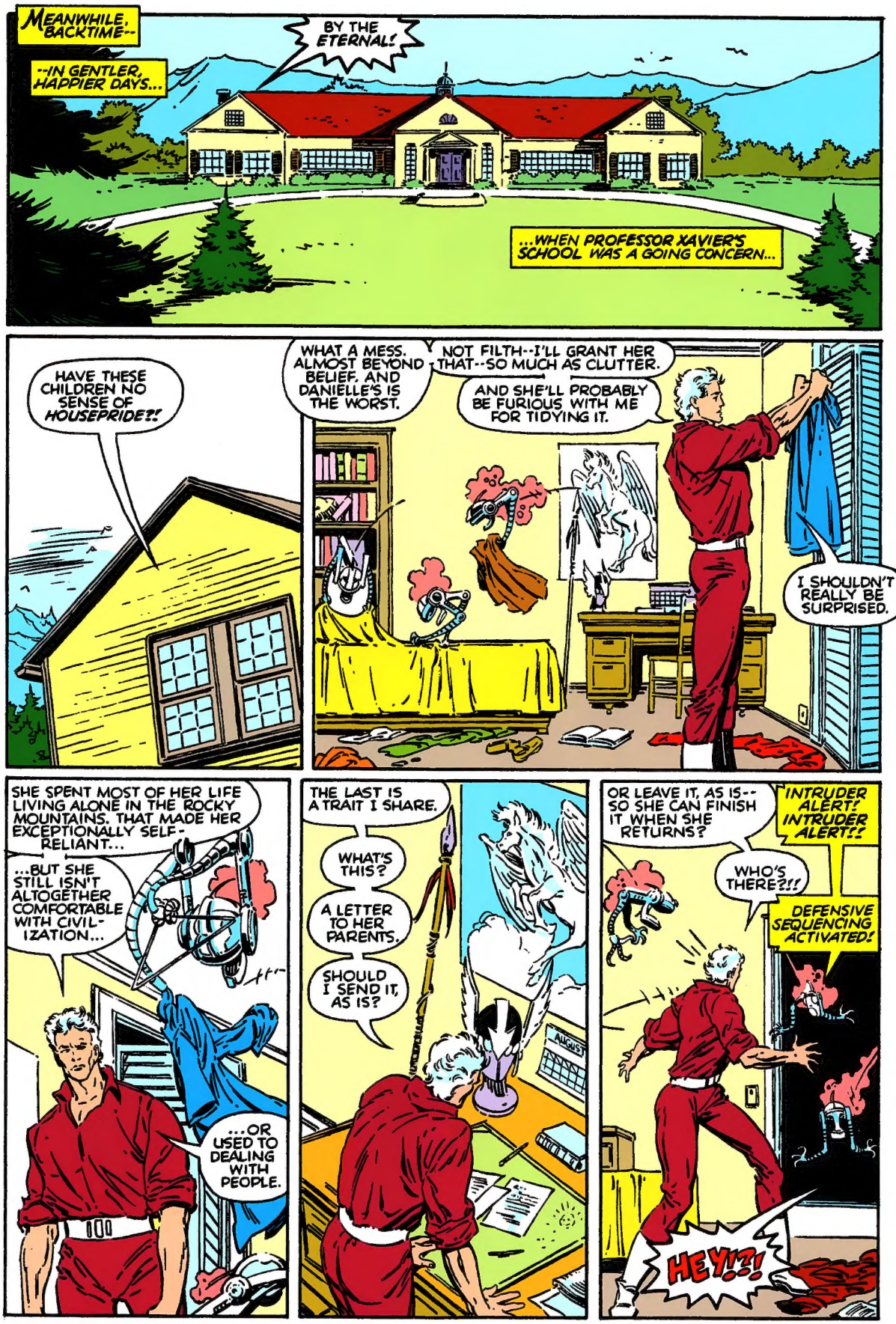

ANOMALY! CENTRAL RECORDS LISTS ALL FOUR SUBJECTS AS SUCCESSFULLY TERMINATED.
EVIDENT ERROR IN MASTER FILE. SUBJECTS EXIST. THEREFORE, TERMINATION WAS UNSUCCESSFUL.
ALL UNITS-- PATROL FORCE LAMBDA-- FULL PRIMARY PROGRAMMING.
BY HECATE-- WHAT ARE THEY?!
SENTINELS!

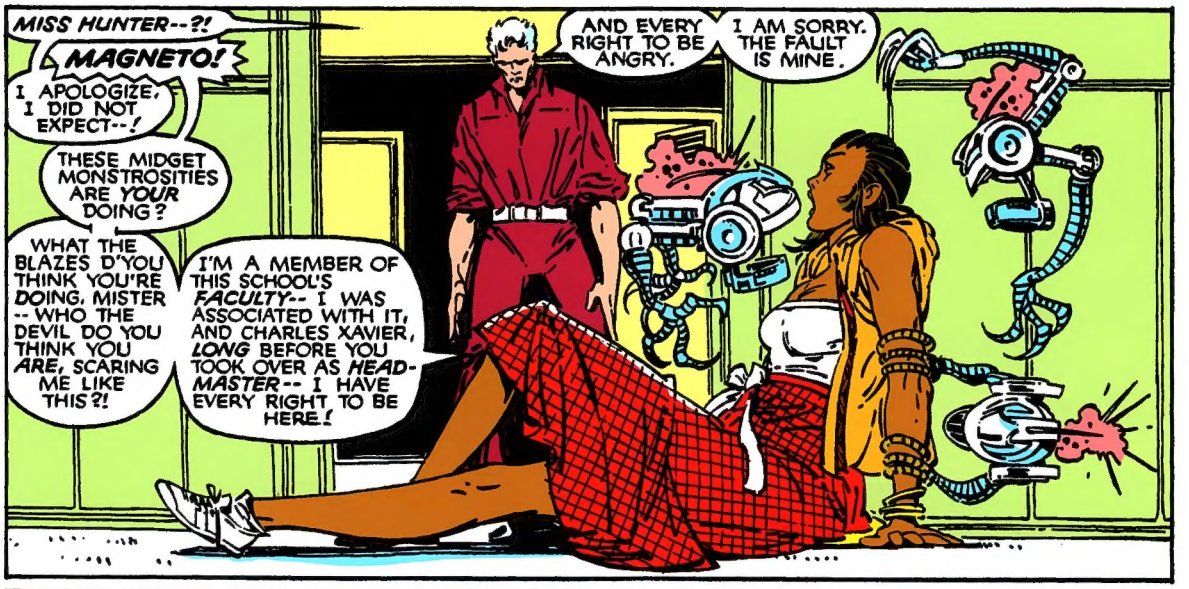

GIANT MUTANT-HUNTING ROBOTS. THE SOULLESS, GODLESS SPALEEN!
FROM THE WAY THEY'RE TALKING--
--THEY MEAN TO KILL US!
EVERYONE-- SCATTER!

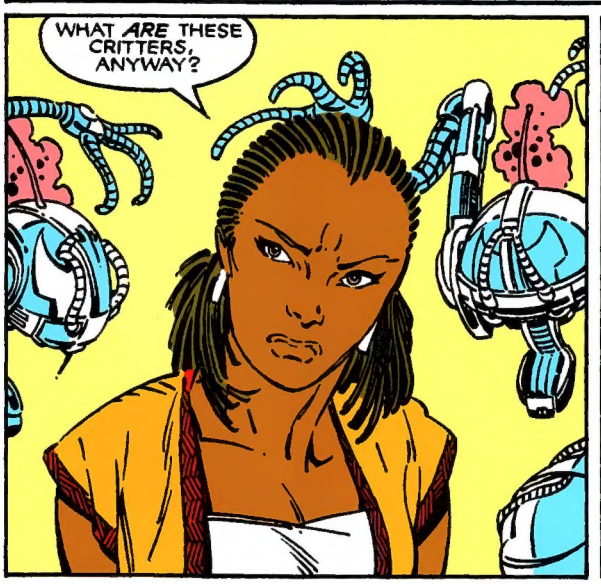

AYYAIEE!
DINNA FEAR, SHAN!
I'LL SAVE YOU!
FASSZH!
LEAVE ME, WOLFSBANE! SAVE YOURSELF!
I WON'T!
WE ALL OF US ESCAPE, OR NONE!
ARE YOU MAD?! YOUR WEREWOLF FORM CANNOT SURVIVE A PLASMA BLAST!
AND MY POWER OF POSSESSION ONLY WORKS ON LIVING BEINGS. IT IS USELESS AGAINST THESE MECHANICAL MONSTROSITIES!
SHAN--BEHIND THE ROBOT!
SOMETHING'S COMING!!
BY THE HOLY ROOD-- IT CANNA BE!!!
CANNONBALL!
SPLOW!

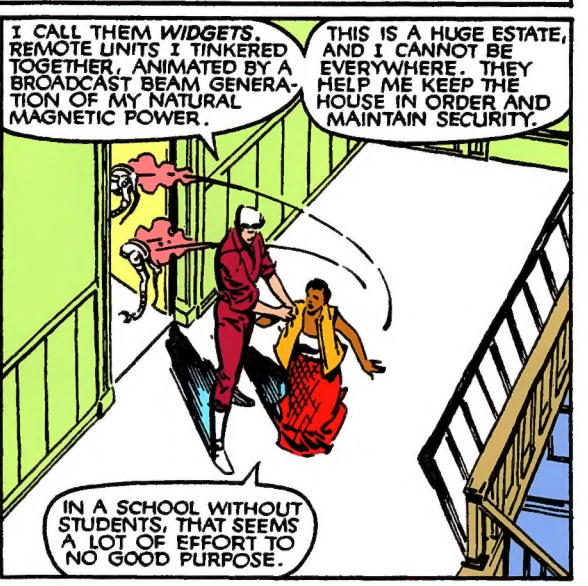

UNIT LAMBDA-TWO RENDERED DYS-FUNCTIONAL...
...BY MUTANT-ENTITY, DESIGNATION CANNONBALL.
IF YOU THOUGHT MY TALL AND SKINNY BUDDY WAS TROUBLE, CREATURE--
--WAIT TILL YOU SEE WHAT MAGMA AND I CAN DO!
THE YOUNG NOVA ROMANA HAS ABSO-LUTE CONTROL...
...OVER THE NATURAL FIRES OF THE EARTH.
AT HER MENTAL COMMAND, VOLCANIC LAVA REARS UP ABOUT THE SENTINEL, WHILE AN INTENSE, FOCUSED TREMOR SHAKES IT OFF ITS FEET.
SUNSPOT DRAWS HIS PHENOM-ENAL STRENGTH FROM THE SUN.
IT PROVES MORE THAN SUFFICIENT FOR THE TASK AT HAND.
UNFORTUNATELY...
...THEIR TEAM-MATES ARE NOT FARING ANYWHERE NEAR AS WELL.
I'M RUNNING AND DODGING QUICK AS I CAN--
--BUT JUST ONE OF THAT GIANT'S STEPS WIPES OUT MY WHOLE LEAD!
HIT THE DECK, YOU TWO!
WHAT--?! WHO?!?

NO BACK-TALK, WOLFSBANE!
DANI!?!
JUST DO AS YOU'RE TOLD!
VORP!
SQUEEEAIE!
THIS DEALS WITH THE LAST!
WAY TO GO, MUTANTS! WE WIN!
BOY, I DO SO LOVE IT WHEN THOSE METAL MONSTERS GO "SQUEE!"
STAY WHERE YOU ARE!
AH'LL PICK Y'ALL UP ON THE FLY!
SAM, WHAT'S THE RUSH?!
CAN'T YOU EVEN SPARE US A DECENT "HELLO?"
CAN'T SPARE NOTHIN'!
HURRY, YOU TWO! CLIMB UP BEHIND ME ON BRIGHTWIND!
IF WE'RE NOT LONG GONE AND UNDER COVER BEFORE THE SENTINELS SCRAMBLE THEIR TAC TEAM...
...WE'RE DEAD!


MEANWHILE, BACKTIME--
--IN GENTLER, HAPPIER DAYS...
BY THE ETERNAL!
...WHEN PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL WAS A GOING CONCERN...
HAVE THESE CHILDREN NO SENSE OF HOUSEPRIDE?!
WHAT A MESS. ALMOST BEYOND BELIEF. AND DANIELLE'S IS THE WORST.
NOT FILTH--I'LL GRANT HER THAT--SO MUCH AS CLUTTER.
AND SHE'LL PROBABLY BE FURIOUS WITH ME FOR TIDYING IT.
I SHOULDN'T REALLY BE SURPRISED.
SHE SPENT MOST OF HER LIFE LIVING ALONE IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS. THAT MADE HER EXCEPTIONALLY SELF-RELIANT...
...BUT SHE STILL ISN'T ALTOGETHER COMFORTABLE WITH CIVILIZATION...
...OR USED TO DEALING WITH PEOPLE.
THE LAST IS A TRAIT I SHARE.
WHAT'S THIS?
A LETTER TO HER PARENTS.
SHOULD I SEND IT, AS IS?
OR LEAVE IT, AS IS--SO SHE CAN FINISH IT WHEN SHE RETURNS?
INTRUDER ALERT! INTRUDER ALERT!!
WHO'S THERE?!!
DEFENSIVE SEQUENCING ACTIVATED!
HEY!?!


MISS HUNTER--?!
MAGNETO!
I APOLOGIZE. I DID NOT EXPECT--!
THESE MIDGET MONSTROSITIES ARE YOUR DOING?
WHAT THE BLAZES D'YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, MISTER -- WHO THE DEVIL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, SCARING ME LIKE THIS?!
I'M A MEMBER OF THIS SCHOOL'S FACULTY-- I WAS ASSOCIATED WITH IT, AND CHARLES XAVIER, LONG BEFORE YOU TOOK OVER AS HEAD-MASTER-- I HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO BE HERE!
AND EVERY RIGHT TO BE ANGRY.
I AM SORRY. THE FAULT IS MINE.

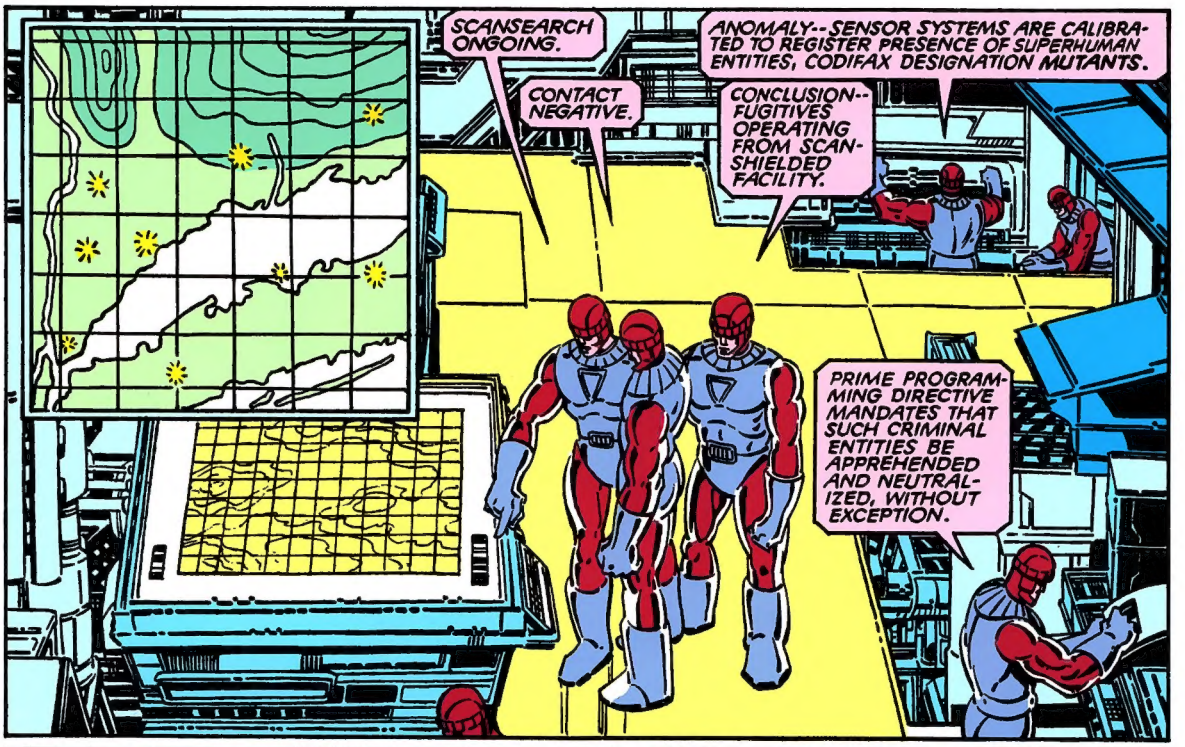

WHAT ARE THESE CRITTERS, ANYWAY?

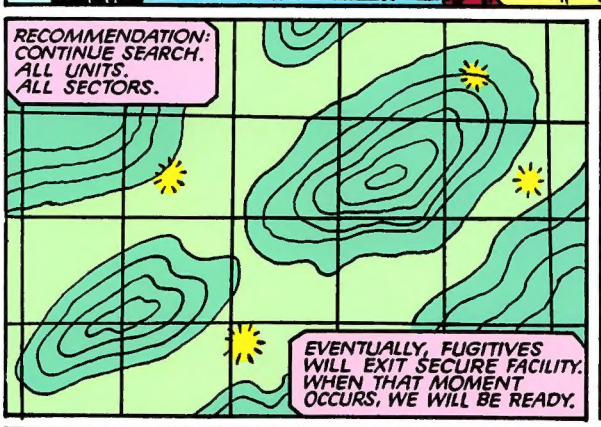

I CALL THEM WIDGETS. REMOTE UNITS I TINKERED TOGETHER, ANIMATED BY A BROADCAST BEAM GENERATION OF MY NATURAL MAGNETIC POWER.
THIS IS A HUGE ESTATE, AND I CANNOT BE EVERYWHERE. THEY HELP ME KEEP THE HOUSE IN ORDER AND MAINTAIN SECURITY.
IN A SCHOOL WITHOUT STUDENTS, THAT SEEMS A LOT OF EFFORT TO NO GOOD PURPOSE.

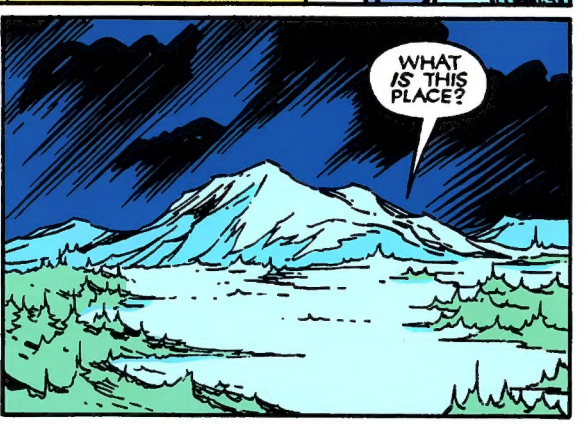
THE NEW MUTANTS WILL RETURN.
YOU'RE SURE?
I HOPE. I... BELIEVE.
IT'S THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU?
YOU SOUND SURPRISED.

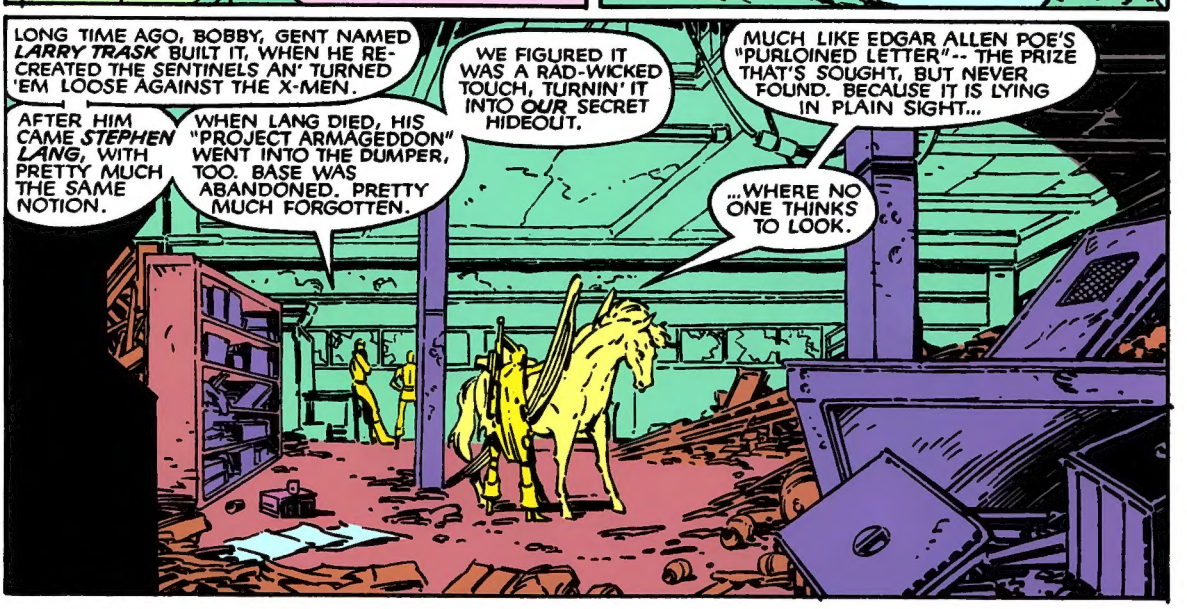
WHATEVER PROMISE YOU MADE TO CHARLES, IT DIED WITH THE KIDS. YOUR OBLIGATION'S FULFILLED.
TRUE-- WHEN I ASSUMED THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF HEAD-MASTER, IT WAS SOLELY BECAUSE OF A PROMISE MADE TO AN OLD FRIEND.
BUT SINCE THEN, I'VE COME TO KNOW THESE CHILDREN, AND...

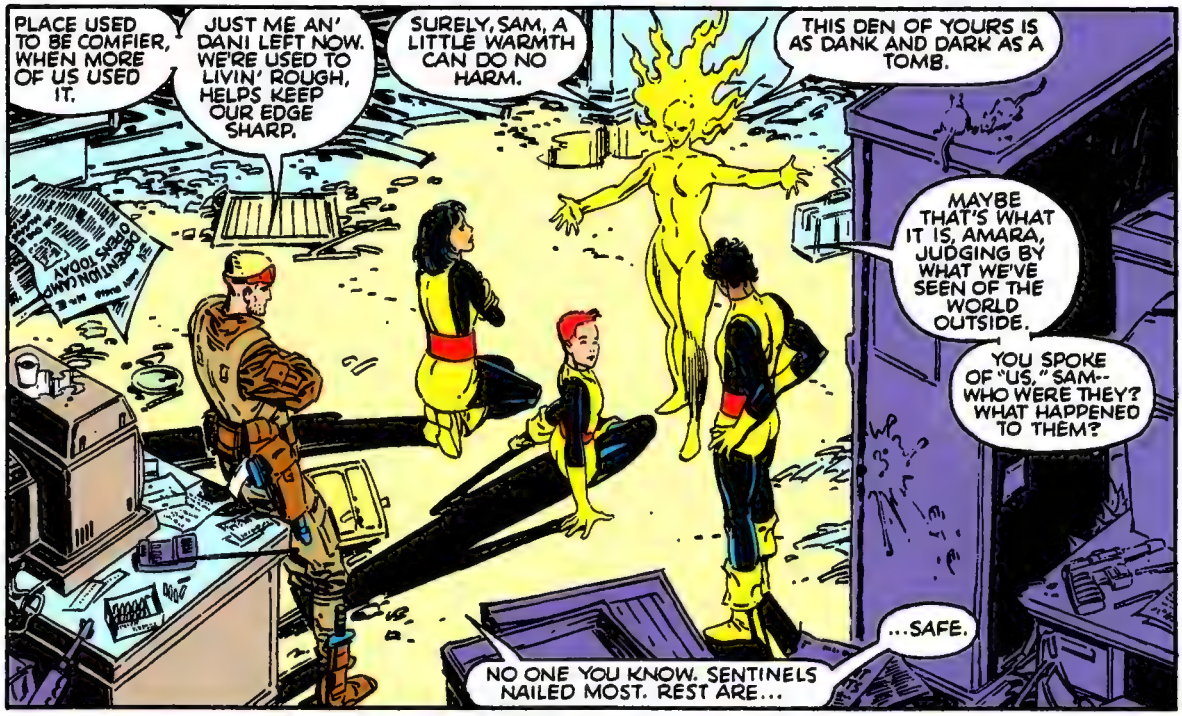
...CARE FOR THEM.
WHATEVER I WAS, STEVIE-- WHATEVER I BECOME--
--THEY MEAN TOO MUCH TO ME...
...TO ABANDON THEM.

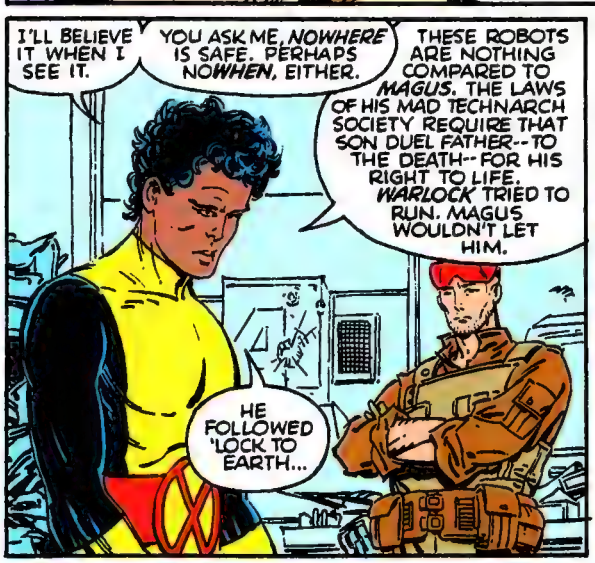

SCANSEARCH ONGOING.
CONTACT NEGATIVE.
ANOMALY-- SENSOR SYSTEMS ARE CALIBRATED TO REGISTER PRESENCE OF SUPERHUMAN ENTITIES, CODIFAX DESIGNATION MUTANTS.
CONCLUSION-- FUGITIVES OPERATING FROM SCAN-SHIELDED FACILITY.
PRIME PROGRAMMING DIRECTIVE MANDATES THAT SUCH CRIMINAL ENTITIES BE APPREHENDED AND NEUTRALIZED, WITHOUT EXCEPTION.

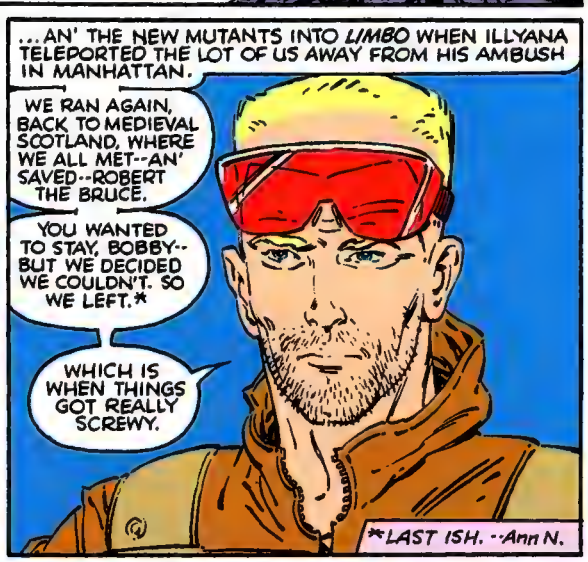

RECOMMENDATION: CONTINUE SEARCH. ALL UNITS. ALL SECTORS.
EVENTUALLY, FUGITIVES WILL EXIT SECURE FACILITY. WHEN THAT MOMENT OCCURS, WE WILL BE READY.


WHAT IS THIS PLACE?


LONG TIME AGO, BOBBY, GENT NAMED LARRY TRASK BUILT IT, WHEN HE RE-CREATED THE SENTINELS AN' TURNED 'EM LOOSE AGAINST THE X-MEN.
AFTER HIM CAME STEPHEN LANG, WITH PRETTY MUCH THE SAME NOTION.
WHEN LANG DIED, HIS "PROJECT ARMAGEDDON" WENT INTO THE DUMPER, TOO. BASE WAS ABANDONED. PRETTY MUCH FORGOTTEN.
WE FIGURED IT WAS A RAD-WICKED TOUCH, TURNIN' IT INTO OUR SECRET HIDEOUT.
MUCH LIKE EDGAR ALLEN POE'S "PURLOINED LETTER"-- THE PRIZE THAT'S SOUGHT, BUT NEVER FOUND. BECAUSE IT IS LYING IN PLAIN SIGHT...
...WHERE NO ONE THINKS TO LOOK.

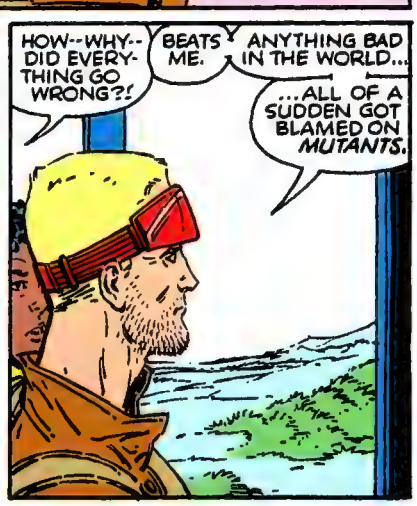

PLACE USED TO BE COMFIER, WHEN MORE OF US USED IT.
JUST ME AN' DANI LEFT NOW. WE'RE USED TO LIVIN' ROUGH, HELPS KEEP OUR EDGE SHARP.
SURELY, SAM, A LITTLE WARMTH CAN DO NO HARM.
THIS DEN OF YOURS IS AS DANK AND DARK AS A TOMB.
MAYBE THAT'S WHAT IT IS, AMARA, JUDGING BY WHAT WE'VE SEEN OF THE WORLD OUTSIDE.
YOU SPOKE OF "US," SAM-- WHO WERE THEY? WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?
...SAFE.
NO ONE YOU KNOW. SENTINELS NAILED MOST. REST ARE...

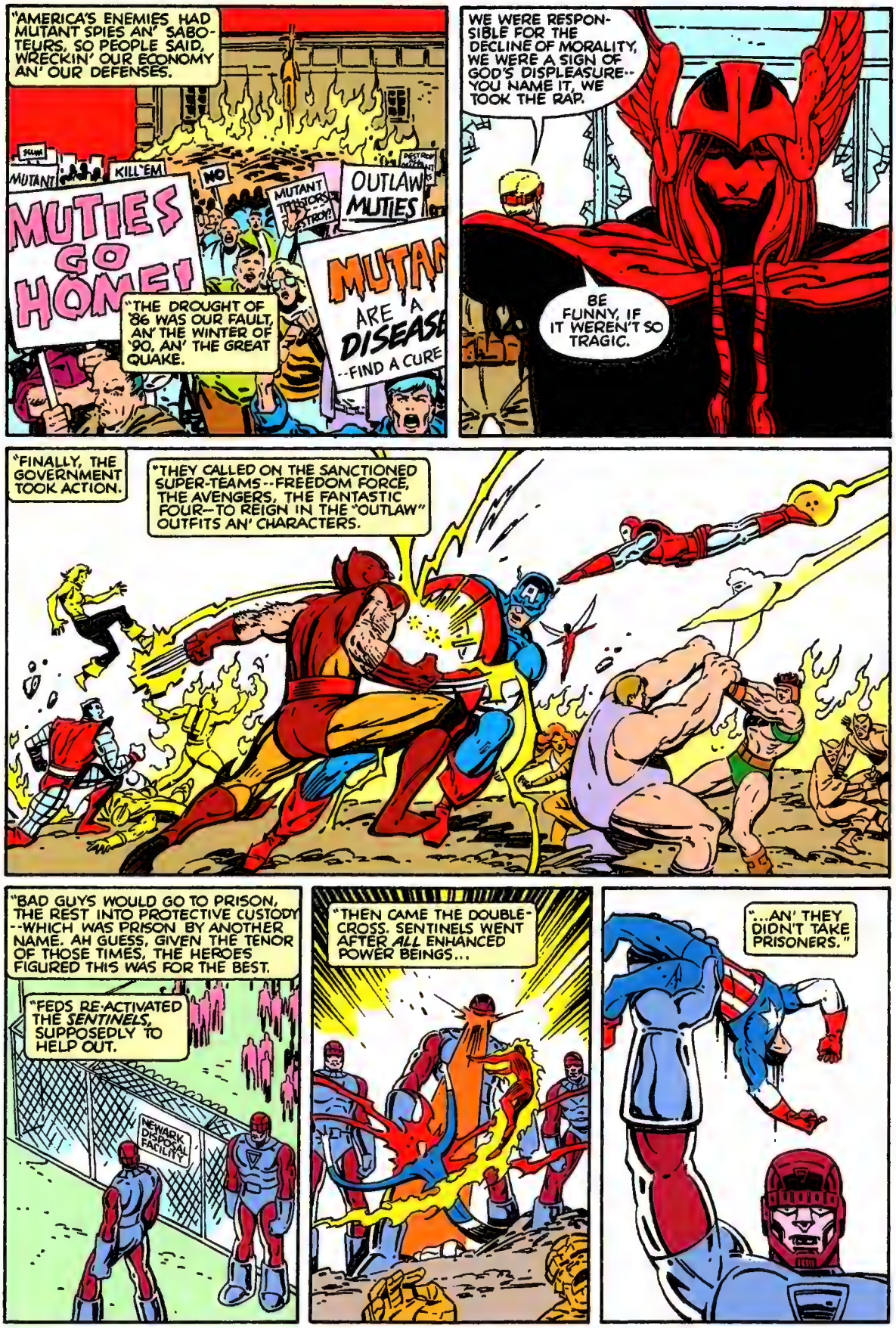

I'LL BELIEVE IT WHEN I SEE IT.
YOU ASK ME, NOWHERE IS SAFE. PERHAPS NOWHEN, EITHER.
THESE ROBOTS ARE NOTHING COMPARED TO MAGUS. THE LAWS OF HIS MAD TECHNARCH SOCIETY REQUIRE THAT SON DUEL FATHER--TO THE DEATH--FOR HIS RIGHT TO LIFE. WARLOCK TRIED TO RUN. MAGUS WOULDN'T LET HIM.
HE FOLLOWED 'LOCK TO EARTH...


...AN' THE NEW MUTANTS INTO LIMBO WHEN ILLYANA TELEPORTED THE LOT OF US AWAY FROM HIS AMBUSH IN MANHATTAN.
WE RAN AGAIN, BACK TO MEDIEVAL SCOTLAND, WHERE WE ALL MET--AN' SAVED--ROBERT THE BRUCE.
YOU WANTED TO STAY, BOBBY-- BUT WE DECIDED WE COULDN'T. SO WE LEFT.*
WHICH IS WHEN THINGS GOT REALLY SCREWY.
*LAST ISH. --Ann N.

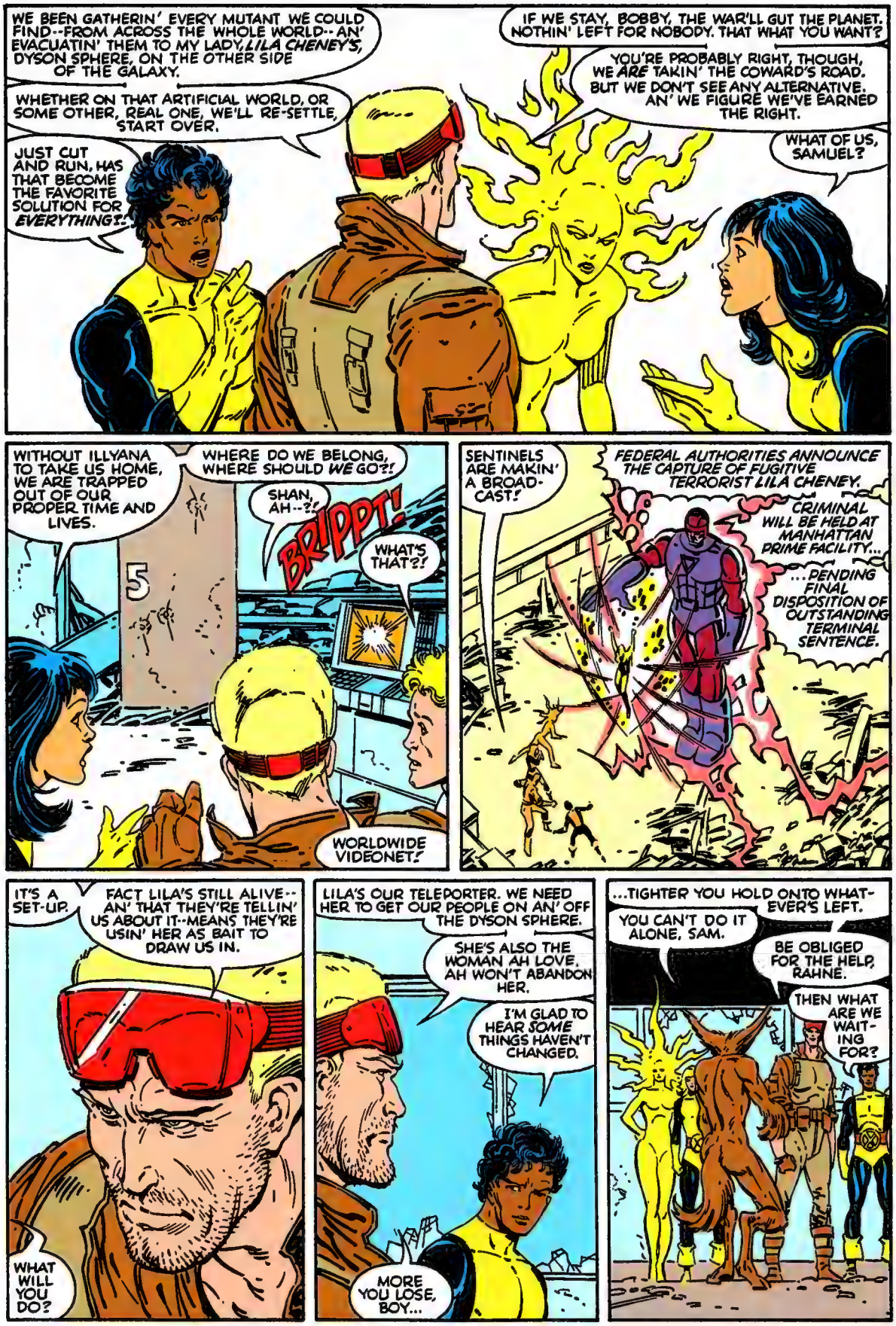
HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS?!
HOW DO YOU THINK?! AH'M OLDER AN' GREYER, BUT AH'M STILL SAM GUTHRIE.
THIS CAPER'S PART O' MY MEMORIES.

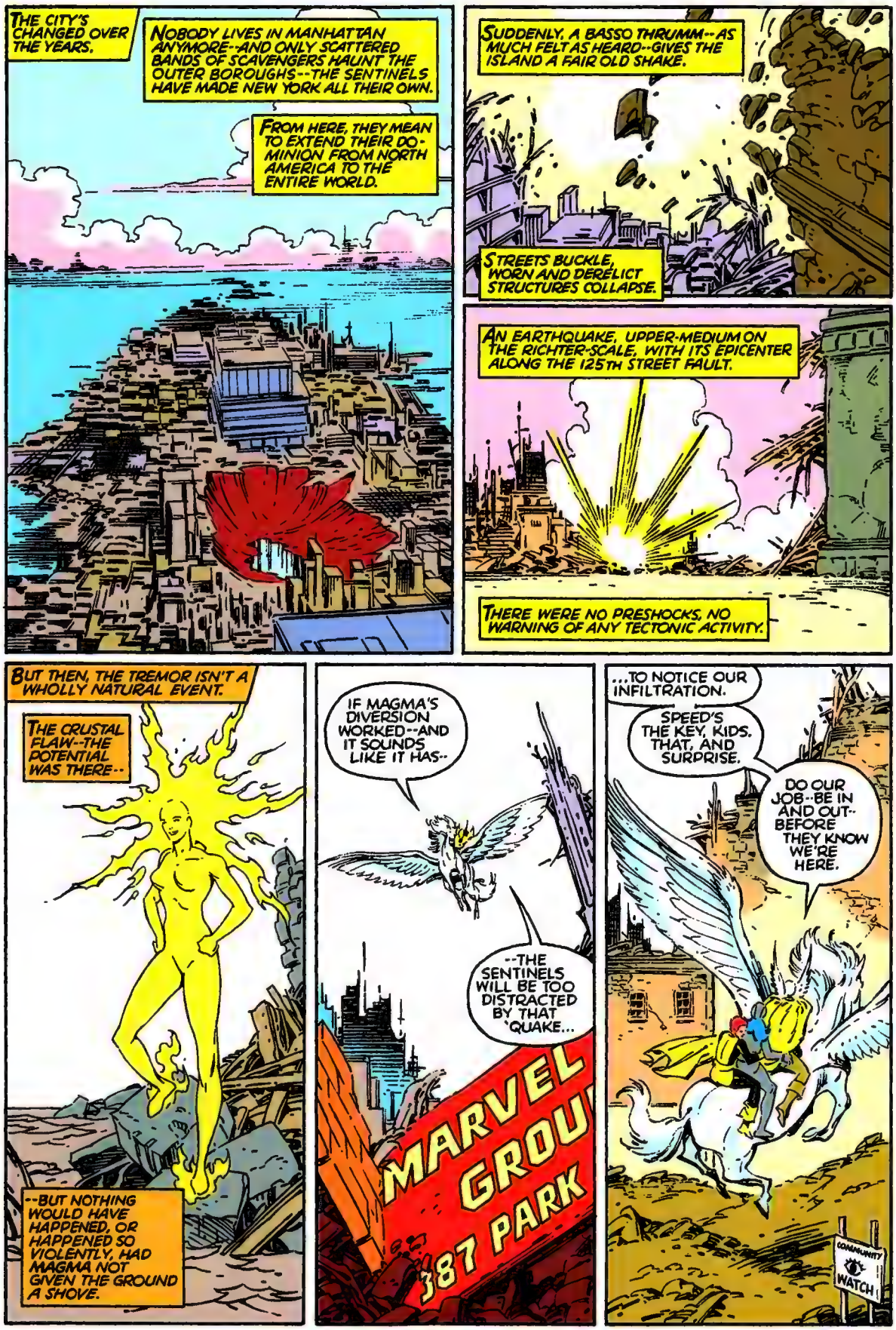
THAT'S HOW DANI AN' I KNEW YOU WERE IN TROUBLE--AH REMEMBERED THE AMBUSH, FROM WHEN AH WAS A NEW MUTANT.
SAM, WHAT HAPPENED?

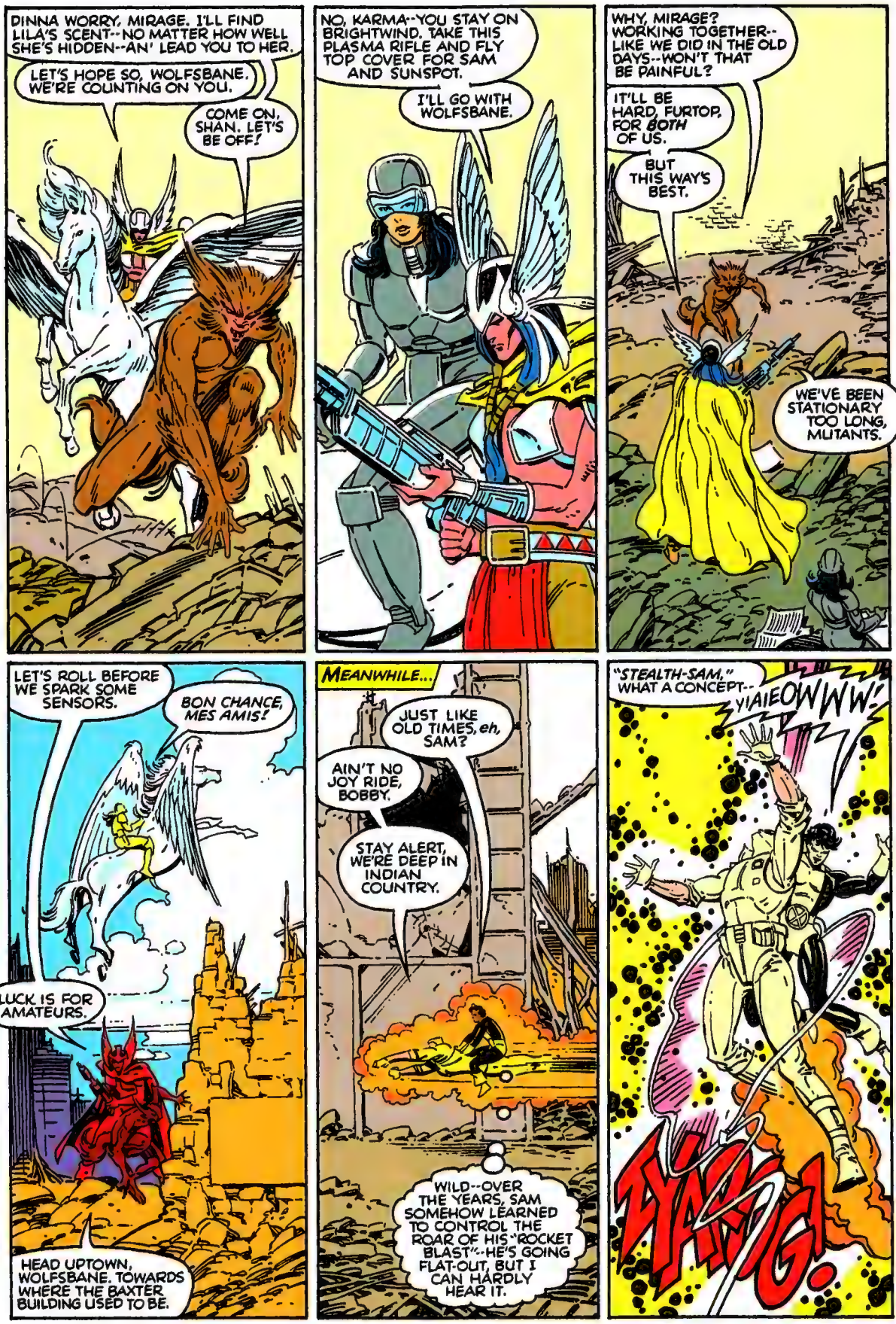

HOW--WHY--DID EVERY-THING GO WRONG?!
BEATS ME.
ANYTHING BAD IN THE WORLD...
...ALL OF A SUDDEN GOT BLAMED ON MUTANTS.

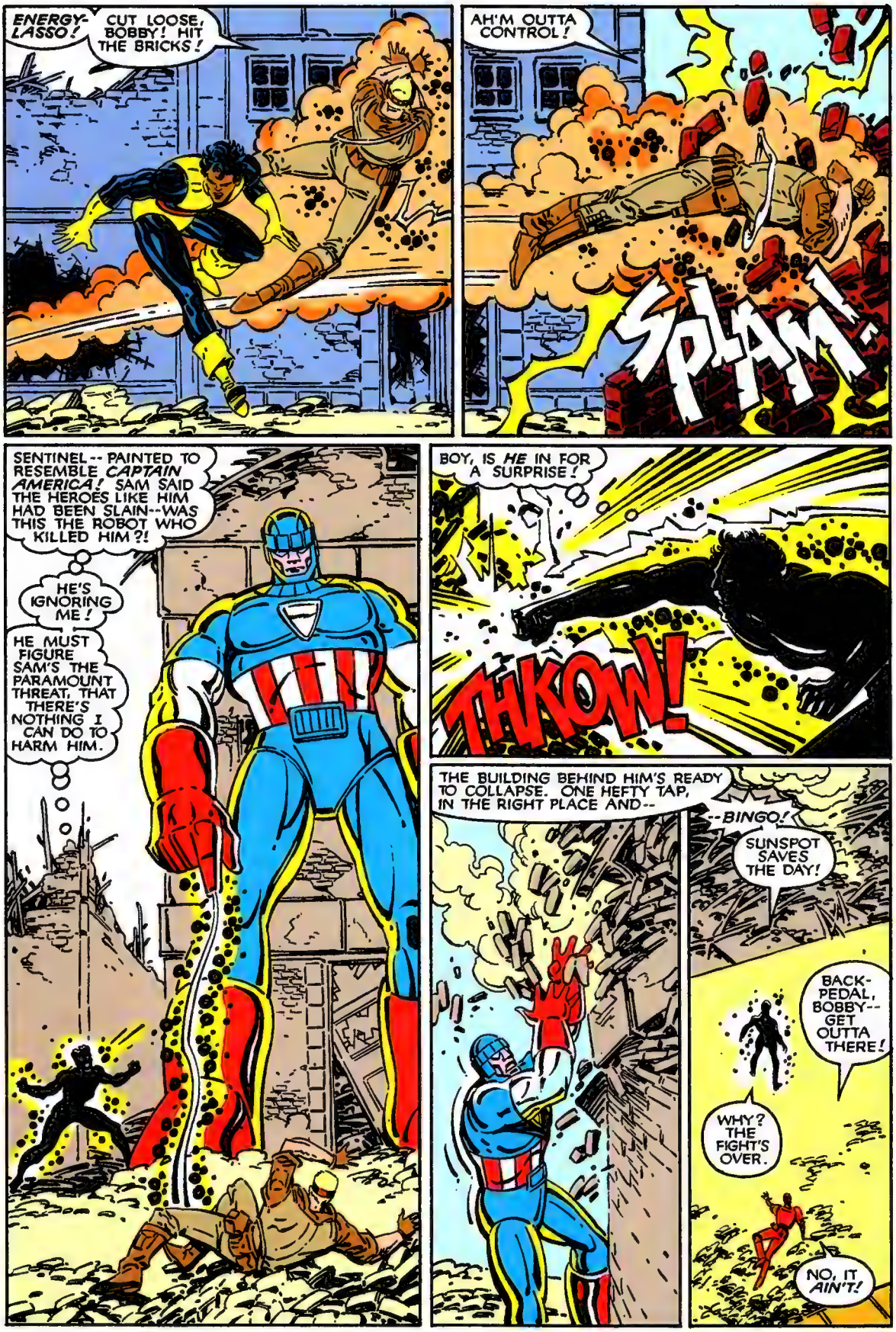

"AMERICA'S ENEMIES HAD MUTANT SPIES AN' SABOTEURS, SO PEOPLE SAID, WRECKIN' OUR ECONOMY AN' OUR DEFENSES.
MUTANT
KILL 'EM!
NO
MUTANT TRAITORS MUST BE DESTROY!
OUTLAW MUTIES
MUTIES GO HOME!
"THE DROUGHT OF '86 WAS OUR FAULT, AN' THE WINTER OF '90, AN' THE GREAT QUAKE.
MUTANTS ARE A DISEASE --FIND A CURE
WE WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DECLINE OF MORALITY, WE WERE A SIGN OF GOD'S DISPLEASURE-- YOU NAME IT, WE TOOK THE RAP.
BE FUNNY, IF IT WEREN'T SO TRAGIC.
"FINALLY, THE GOVERNMENT TOOK ACTION.
"THEY CALLED ON THE SANCTIONED SUPER-TEAMS--FREEDOM FORCE, THE AVENGERS, THE FANTASTIC FOUR--TO REIGN IN THE "OUTLAW" OUTFITS AN' CHARACTERS.
"BAD GUYS WOULD GO TO PRISON, THE REST INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY --WHICH WAS PRISON BY ANOTHER NAME. AH GUESS, GIVEN THE TENOR OF THOSE TIMES, THE HEROES FIGURED THIS WAS FOR THE BEST.
"FEDS RE-ACTIVATED THE *SENTINELS*, SUPPOSEDLY TO HELP OUT.
NEWARK DISPOSAL FACILITY
"THEN CAME THE DOUBLE-CROSS. SENTINELS WENT AFTER *ALL* ENHANCED POWER BEINGS...
"...AN' THEY DIDN'T TAKE PRISONERS."

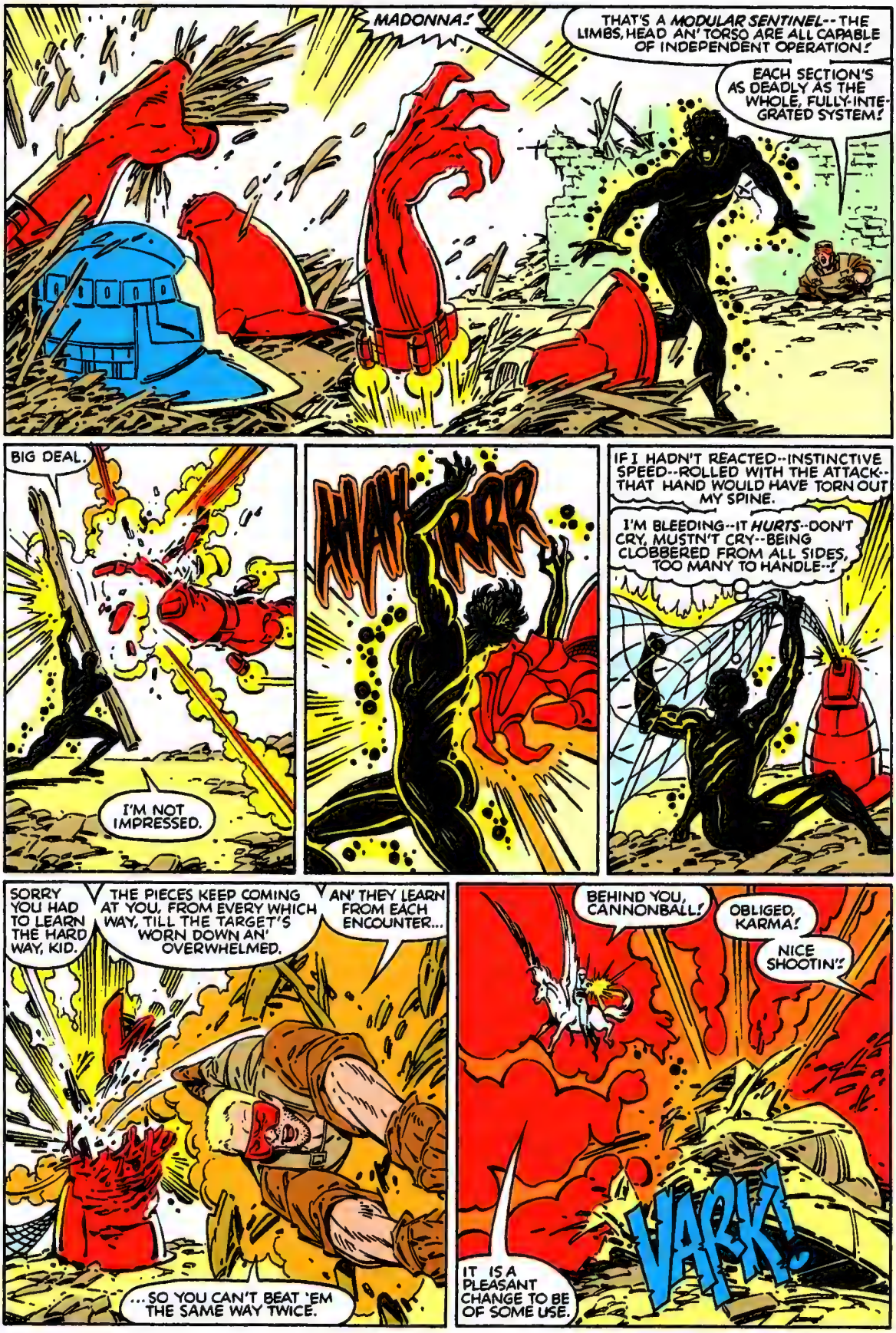
THEY TOLD THE WORLD *THEY* WERE THE GUARDIANS OF THE NATION, CHARGED WITH PRESERVIN' THE PURITY AN' SANCTITY OF THE HUMAN GENE POOL.
WE BEEN FIGHTIN' AN' KILLIN' EACH OTHER EVER SINCE.
GO AWAY, RAHNE. LEAVE ME BE.
DANI, ARE WE NA' STILL FRIENDS?
THAT WAS A DIFFERENT *DANIELLE MOONSTAR*-- WHO LIVED IN... GENTLER DAYS-- I AM NOT SHE.
THA'S DAFT!
FOOLISH CHILD, DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?!
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD A WORD SAM SAID?!
TO ME, RAHNE, YOU'RE *DEAD!*
I HELD YOU IN MY ARMS, RAHNE, AFTER THE SENTINELS STRUCK YOU DOWN!
I WAS COVERED IN YOUR BLOOD. I FELT THE LAST BEAT OF YOUR HEART. "HEARD" THE LAST THOUGHT FROM YOUR MIND!
I FOUGHT DEATH FOR YOU WITH ALL MY HEART AND SOUL--AND LOST.
I WON'T GO THROUGH THAT AGAIN.
HARD LESSON. HAD TO BE LEARNED.
OF OUR GENERATION--OF THE SUPER-BEINGS WE KNEW--WE'RE PRETTY MUCH IT. ALL THAT'S LEFT. WE'VE BURIED FRIENDS, LOVERS, FAMILY.
THIS STINKIN' WAR'S MOST LIKE A VIDEO GAME. NO MATTER HOW HARD WE TRY, WE CAN'T WIN. BEST WE CAN MANAGE IS TO HOLD OUR OWN. TROUBLE IS, ROBOTS DON'T GET TIRED. THEY DON'T GET DISTRACTED. THEY NEVER QUIT.
SO AH GUESS WE WILL.

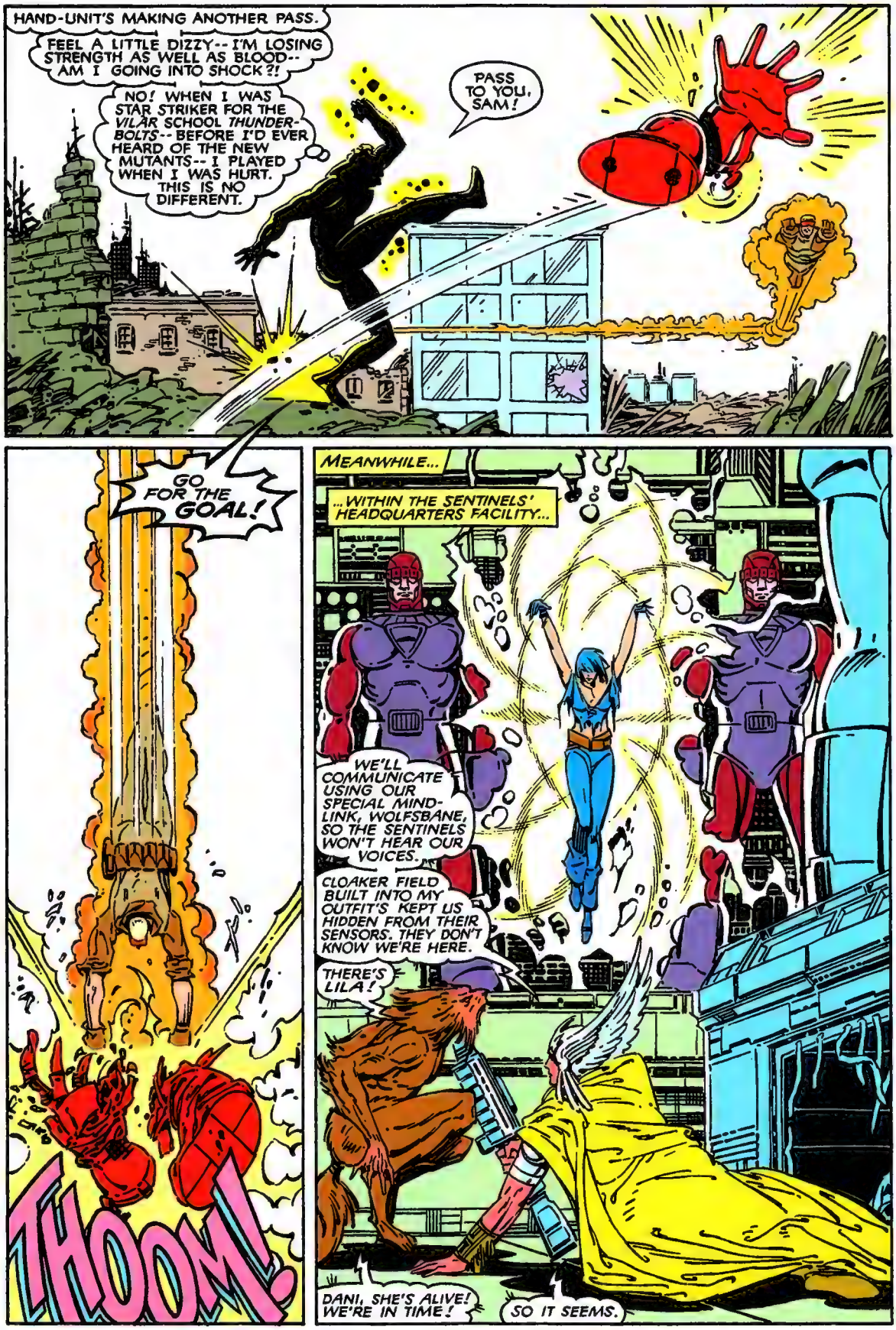

WE BEEN GATHERIN' EVERY MUTANT WE COULD FIND--FROM ACROSS THE WHOLE WORLD-- AN' EVACUATIN' THEM TO MY LADY, *LILA CHENEY'S*, DYSON SPHERE, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GALAXY.
WHETHER ON THAT ARTIFICIAL WORLD, OR SOME OTHER, REAL ONE, WE'LL RE-SETTLE, START OVER.
JUST CUT AND RUN, HAS THAT BECOME THE FAVORITE SOLUTION FOR *EVERYTHING!*
IF WE STAY, BOBBY, THE WAR'LL GUT THE PLANET. NOTHIN' LEFT FOR NOBODY. THAT WHAT YOU WANT?
YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT, THOUGH, WE *ARE* TAKIN' THE COWARD'S ROAD. BUT WE DON'T SEE ANY ALTERNATIVE. AN' WE FIGURE WE'VE EARNED THE RIGHT.
WHAT OF US, SAMUEL?
WITHOUT ILLYANA TO TAKE US HOME, WE ARE TRAPPED OUT OF OUR PROPER TIME AND LIVES.
WHERE DO WE BELONG, WHERE SHOULD *WE* GO?!
SHAN, AH--?!
BRIPPT!
WHAT'S THAT?!
5
WORLDWIDE VIDEONET!
SENTINELS ARE MAKIN' A BROADCAST!
FEDERAL AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCE THE CAPTURE OF FUGITIVE TERRORIST LILA CHENEY.
CRIMINAL WILL BE HELD AT MANHATTAN PRIME FACILITY...
...PENDING FINAL DISPOSITION OF OUTSTANDING TERMINAL SENTENCE.
IT'S A SET-UP.
FACT LILA'S STILL ALIVE-- AN' THAT THEY'RE TELLIN' US ABOUT IT--MEANS THEY'RE USIN' HER AS BAIT TO DRAW US IN.
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
LILA'S OUR TELEPORTER. WE NEED HER TO GET OUR PEOPLE ON AN' OFF THE DYSON SPHERE.
SHE'S ALSO THE WOMAN AH LOVE. AH WON'T ABANDON HER.
I'M GLAD TO HEAR *SOME* THINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED.
MORE YOU LOSE, BOY...
...TIGHTER YOU HOLD ONTO WHATEVER'S LEFT.
YOU CAN'T DO IT ALONE, SAM.
BE OBLIGED FOR THE HELP, RAHNE.
THEN WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

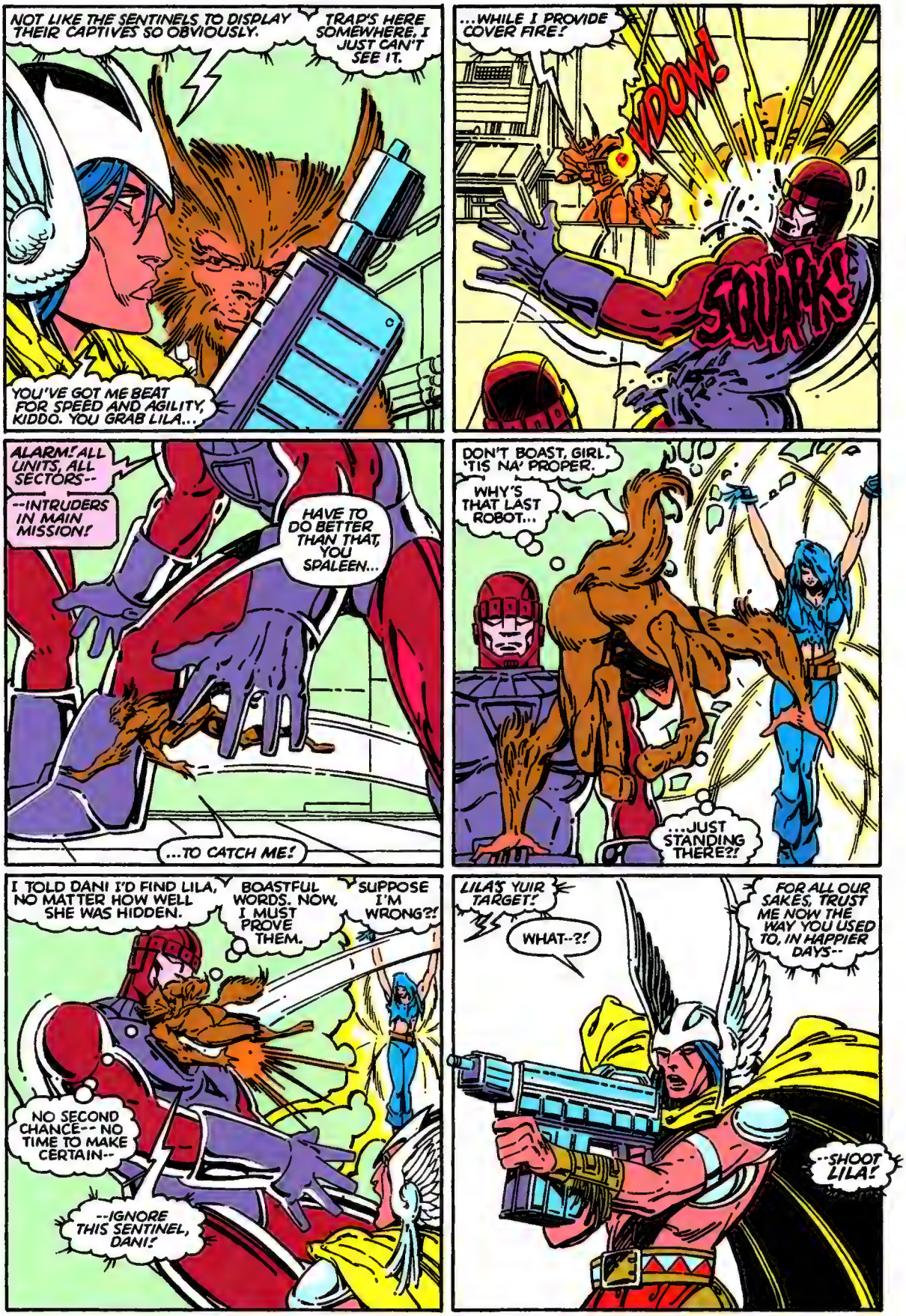

THE CITY'S CHANGED OVER THE YEARS.
NOBODY LIVES IN MANHATTAN ANYMORE--AND ONLY SCATTERED BANDS OF SCAVENGERS HAUNT THE OUTER BOROUGHS--THE SENTINELS HAVE MADE NEW YORK ALL THEIR OWN.
FROM HERE, THEY MEAN TO EXTEND THEIR DOMINION FROM NORTH AMERICA TO THE ENTIRE WORLD.
SUDDENLY, A BASSO THRUMM--AS MUCH FELT AS HEARD--GIVES THE ISLAND A FAIR OLD SHAKE.
STREETS BUCKLE, WORN AND DERELICT STRUCTURES COLLAPSE.
AN EARTHQUAKE, UPPER-MEDIUM ON THE RICHTER-SCALE, WITH ITS EPICENTER ALONG THE 125TH STREET FAULT.
THERE WERE NO PRESHOCKS, NO WARNING OF ANY TECTONIC ACTIVITY.
BUT THEN, THE TREMOR ISN'T A WHOLLY NATURAL EVENT.
THE CRUSTAL FLAW--THE POTENTIAL WAS THERE--
--BUT NOTHING WOULD HAVE HAPPENED, OR HAPPENED SO VIOLENTLY, HAD MAGMA NOT GIVEN THE GROUND A SHOVE.
IF MAGMA'S DIVERSION WORKED--AND IT SOUNDS LIKE IT HAS--
--THE SENTINELS WILL BE TOO DISTRACTED BY THAT 'QUAKE...
MARVEL GROU
387 PARK
...TO NOTICE OUR INFILTRATION.
SPEED'S THE KEY, KIDS. THAT, AND SURPRISE.
DO OUR JOB--BE IN AND OUT--BEFORE THEY KNOW WE'RE HERE.
COMMUNITY WATCH

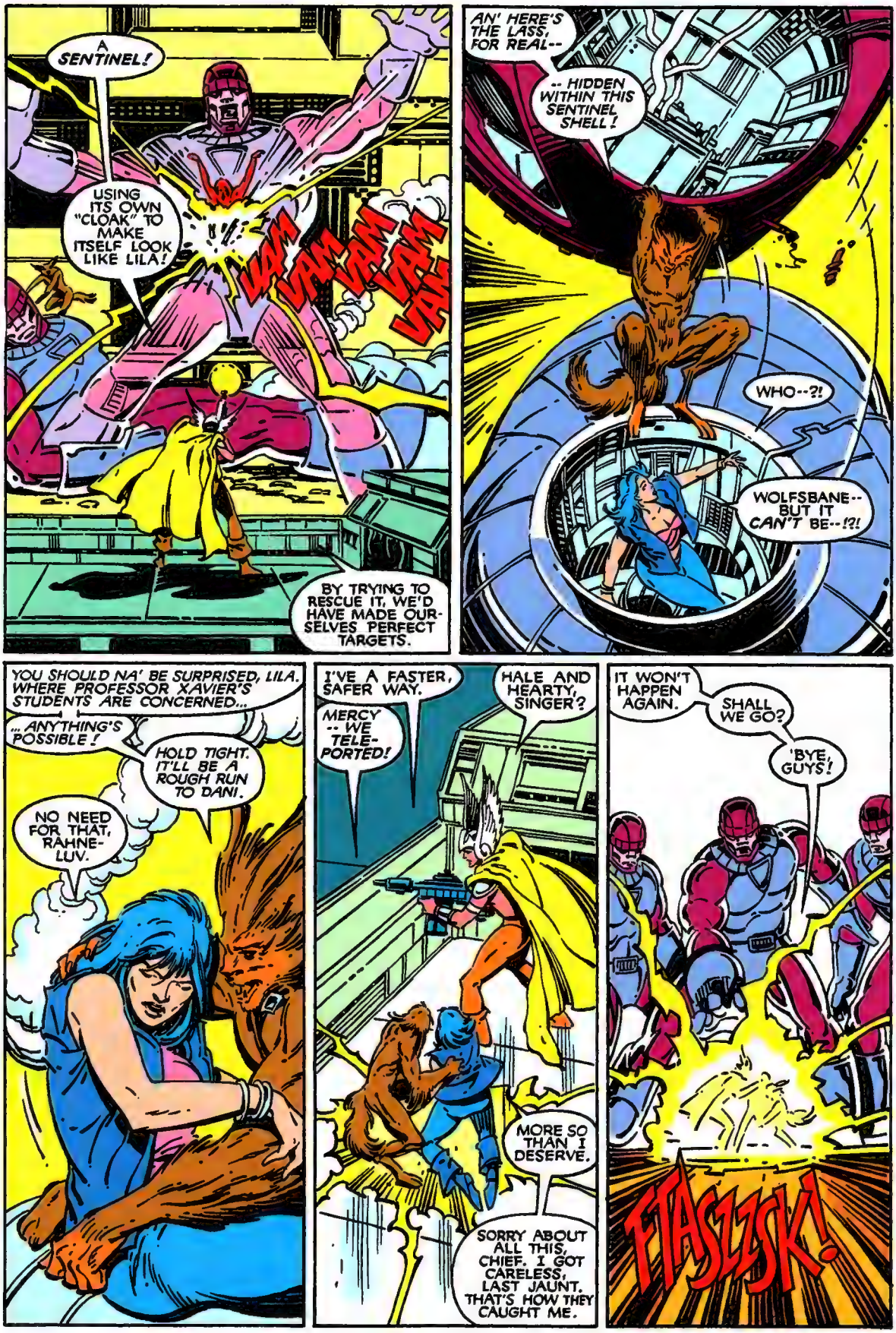

DINNA WORRY, MIRAGE. I'LL FIND LILA'S SCENT--NO MATTER HOW WELL SHE'S HIDDEN--AN' LEAD YOU TO HER.
LET'S HOPE SO, WOLFSBANE. WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU.
COME ON, SHAN. LET'S BE OFF!
NO, KARMA--YOU STAY ON BRIGHTWIND. TAKE THIS PLASMA RIFLE AND FLY TOP COVER FOR SAM AND SUNSPOT.
I'LL GO WITH WOLFSBANE.
WHY, MIRAGE? WORKING TOGETHER--LIKE WE DID IN THE OLD DAYS--WON'T THAT BE PAINFUL?
IT'LL BE HARD, FURTOP, FOR *BOTH* OF US.
BUT THIS WAY'S BEST.
WE'VE BEEN STATIONARY TOO LONG, MUTANTS.
LET'S ROLL BEFORE WE SPARK SOME SENSORS.
BON CHANCE, MES AMIS!
LUCK IS FOR AMATEURS.
HEAD UPTOWN, WOLFSBANE. TOWARDS WHERE THE BAXTER BUILDING USED TO BE.
MEANWHILE...
JUST LIKE OLD TIMES, *eh*, SAM?
AIN'T NO JOY RIDE, BOBBY.
STAY ALERT, WE'RE DEEP IN INDIAN COUNTRY.
WILD--OVER THE YEARS, SAM SOMEHOW LEARNED TO CONTROL THE ROAR OF HIS "ROCKET BLAST"--HE'S GOING FLAT-OUT, BUT I CAN HARDLY HEAR IT.
"STEALTH-SAM," WHAT A CONCEPT--
YIAIEOWWW!
ZYAAAG!


ENERGY-LASSO!
CUT LOOSE, BOBBY! HIT THE BRICKS!
AH'M OUTTA CONTROL!
SPLAM!
SENTINEL -- PAINTED TO RESEMBLE CAPTAIN AMERICA! SAM SAID THE HEROES LIKE HIM HAD BEEN SLAIN--WAS THIS THE ROBOT WHO KILLED HIM?!
HE'S IGNORING ME!
HE MUST FIGURE SAM'S THE PARAMOUNT THREAT, THAT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO HARM HIM.
BOY, IS HE IN FOR A SURPRISE!
THKOW!
THE BUILDING BEHIND HIM'S READY TO COLLAPSE. ONE HEFTY TAP, IN THE RIGHT PLACE AND--
--BINGO!
SUNSPOT SAVES THE DAY!
BACK-PEDAL, BOBBY--GET OUTTA THERE!
WHY? THE FIGHT'S OVER.
NO, IT AIN'T!


MADONNA!
THAT'S A MODULAR SENTINEL--THE LIMBS, HEAD AN' TORSO ARE ALL CAPABLE OF INDEPENDENT OPERATION!
EACH SECTION'S AS DEADLY AS THE WHOLE, FULLY-INTEGRATED SYSTEM!
BIG DEAL.
I'M NOT IMPRESSED.
AHHRRR
IF I HADN'T REACTED--INSTINCTIVE SPEED--ROLLED WITH THE ATTACK--THAT HAND WOULD HAVE TORN OUT MY SPINE.
I'M BLEEDING--IT HURTS--DON'T CRY, MUSTN'T CRY--BEING CLOBBERED FROM ALL SIDES, TOO MANY TO HANDLE--!
SORRY YOU HAD TO LEARN THE HARD WAY, KID.
THE PIECES KEEP COMING AT YOU, FROM EVERY WHICH WAY, TILL THE TARGET'S WORN DOWN AN' OVERWHELMED.
AN' THEY LEARN FROM EACH ENCOUNTER...
...SO YOU CAN'T BEAT 'EM THE SAME WAY TWICE.
BEHIND YOU, CANNONBALL!
OBLIGED, KARMA!
NICE SHOOTIN'!
VARK!
IT IS A PLEASANT CHANGE TO BE OF SOME USE.


HAND-UNIT'S MAKING ANOTHER PASS.
FEEL A LITTLE DIZZY-- I'M LOSING STRENGTH AS WELL AS BLOOD-- AM I GOING INTO SHOCK?!
NO! WHEN I WAS STAR STRIKER FOR THE VILAR SCHOOL THUNDERBOLTS-- BEFORE I'D EVER HEARD OF THE NEW MUTANTS-- I PLAYED WHEN I WAS HURT. THIS IS NO DIFFERENT.
PASS TO YOU, SAM!
GO FOR THE GOAL!
THOOM!
MEANWHILE...
...WITHIN THE SENTINELS' HEADQUARTERS FACILITY...
WE'LL COMMUNICATE USING OUR SPECIAL MIND-LINK, WOLFSBANE, SO THE SENTINELS WON'T HEAR OUR VOICES.
CLOAKER FIELD BUILT INTO MY OUTFIT'S KEPT US HIDDEN FROM THEIR SENSORS. THEY DON'T KNOW WE'RE HERE.
THERE'S LILA!
DANI, SHE'S ALIVE! WE'RE IN TIME!
SO IT SEEMS.


NOT LIKE THE SENTINELS TO DISPLAY THEIR CAPTIVES SO OBVIOUSLY.
TRAP'S HERE SOMEWHERE, I JUST CAN'T SEE IT.
YOU'VE GOT ME BEAT FOR SPEED AND AGILITY, KIDDO. YOU GRAB LILA...
...WHILE I PROVIDE COVER FIRE!
VDOW!
SQUARK!
ALARM! ALL UNITS, ALL SECTORS--
--INTRUDERS IN MAIN MISSION!
HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT, YOU SPALEEN...
...TO CATCH ME!
DON'T BOAST, GIRL. 'TIS NA' PROPER.
WHY'S THAT LAST ROBOT...
...JUST STANDING THERE?!
I TOLD DANI I'D FIND LILA, NO MATTER HOW WELL SHE WAS HIDDEN.
BOASTFUL WORDS. NOW, I MUST PROVE THEM.
SUPPOSE I'M WRONG?!
NO SECOND CHANCE-- NO TIME TO MAKE CERTAIN--
--IGNORE THIS SENTINEL, DANI!
LILA'S YUIR TARGET!
WHAT--?!
FOR ALL OUR SAKES, TRUST ME NOW THE WAY YOU USED TO, IN HAPPIER DAYS--
--SHOOT LILA!


A SENTINEL!
USING ITS OWN "CLOAK" TO MAKE ITSELF LOOK LIKE LILA!
VAM VAM VAM VAM VAM
BY TRYING TO RESCUE IT, WE'D HAVE MADE OURSELVES PERFECT TARGETS.
AN' HERE'S THE LASS, FOR REAL--
-- HIDDEN WITHIN THIS SENTINEL SHELL!
WHO--?!
WOLFSBANE-- BUT IT CAN'T BE--!?!
YOU SHOULD NA' BE SURPRISED, LILA. WHERE PROFESSOR XAVIER'S STUDENTS ARE CONCERNED...
... ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE!
HOLD TIGHT. IT'LL BE A ROUGH RUN TO DANI.
NO NEED FOR THAT, RAHNE-LUV.
I'VE A FASTER, SAFER WAY.
HALE AND HEARTY, SINGER?
MERCY -- WE TELE-PORTED!
MORE SO THAN I DESERVE.
SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS, CHIEF. I GOT CARELESS, LAST JAUNT. THAT'S HOW THEY CAUGHT ME.
IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.
SHALL WE GO?
'BYE, GUYS!
FTASZZSK!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

About ten years ago, a lawyer friend of mine told me that I could sue DC Comics for a million dollars or more. The lawyer, a lady who'd worked in the comics business for many years, had discovered that I'd started writing professionally for DC Comics in 1965 when I was *thirteen years old*, and had written many dozens of stories for DC's top-selling titles while I was between the ages of thirteen and eighteen. Because I was a *minor*, she said, the legal agreements that I'd signed granting DC ownership of the stories I'd written and the characters I'd created (two of which were featured in their own series) were meaningless. She told me that I *owned* those stories, and would be entitled to all the income DC had received from licensing them for publication worldwide, or statutory copyright damages, whichever was greater. She said the case was airtight, and urged me to pursue it.

I never even considered it for a moment.

You see, I'd been offered the same deal as everybody else in comics in those days, and, minor or not, I'd understood it perfectly. Moreover, I'd agreed to it *enthusiastically*—thrilled to have the chance to write comics, and very glad to be paid what I was paid, because my family *needed* that money.

It wouldn't be right to go back on the deal.

Recently, a reporter from Phoenix asked me, "Do you think your comics provide good role models for your younger readers?" That's a pretty standard question, and I gave it the standard answer—that providing good role models is not our goal. We don't try to preach morals or values—business, we feel, best left to parents and educators. We're *entertainers*. Our business is telling good stories.

He seemed happy with that answer, and the interview moved on. Since then, however, I've given that subject more thought. The fact is that a *good* story must leave the reader with something more than he started with—a thought, an idea, an insight . . . What thoughts, ideas and insights were conveyed to *me* when I was a reader?

The Amazing Spider-Man was my favorite title back then. I identified with Peter Parker, because he and his Aunt May had money troubles just like my family did. Often his need was desperate, and he was faced with a choice between doing the self-serving, expedient thing and doing the *right* thing. He wasn't a paragon. Once or twice he slipped. Hey, he was only human. But, you know, I could tell that he learned from his mistakes, and in the end, when it counted, he always chose to do the *right* thing.

My lawyer friend's name came up in conversation the other day, reminding me of my choice not to sue DC. It occurred to me then that Peter Parker wouldn't have done it either.

Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

CHECKLIST

☐ **DAKOTA NORTH #5**
☐ **DAREDEVIL #239**
☐ **G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #3**
☐ **NEW MUTANTS #48**—Vs. the Sentinels of the future!
☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #3**—Their first mission against the Horde!
☐ **TRANSFORMERS: THE MOVIE (Limited Series) #3**
☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #23**
☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #17**
☐ **COMET MAN (Limited Series) #1**—Dr. Stephen Beckley discovers the secret of Halley's Comet—and it destroys him! This incredible space adventure could have been created only by someone who's been there! Created and written by BILL ("Lost in Space") MUMY and MIGUEL FERRAR! Art by KELLY JONES and GERRY TALAOC!
☐ **CONAN ANNUAL #10**
☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #43**
☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #285**—With the Punisher and Hobgoblin!
☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #326**
☐ **DOCTOR STRANGE #81**—Introducing Rintah!
☐ **G.I. JOE AND TRANSFORMERS (Limited Series) #2**—Cobra and the Decepticons become allies!
☐ **POWER PACK #28**—A visit to Avengers Mansion!
☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR VS. THE X-MEN (Limited Series) #1**—Has Reed Richards betrayed the FF? What's he doing with the X-Men? And now will he betray them, too? Find out in this 4-issue Limited Series by CHRIS CLAREMONT (writer) with JON BOGDANOVE and TERRY AUSTIN (artists)!
☐ **AVENGERS #276**—The Masters of Evil!
☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #191**
☐ **G.I. JOE #56**
☐ **HOWARD THE DUCK (Limited Series) #3**
☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #328**
☐ **MARVEL TALES #196**—Reprinting *Marvel Team-Up #62* by CHRIS CLAREMONT and JOHN BYRNE.
☐ **THE 'NAM #3**—Off to Saigon on a "Three Day Pass!" Story by Vietnam vet DOUG MURRAY. Art by MICHAEL GOLDEN and ARMANDO GIL.
☐ **X-MEN #214**—The aftermath of the Mutant Massacre by CHRIS CLAREMONT and BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH!
☐ **MARVEL SAGA #15**—The origins of Hawkeye and Wonder Man! The Avengers vs. Kang! Spidey meets Daredevil! And more!
☐ **TRANFORMERS UNIVERSE (Limited Series) #3**
☐ **SPIDER-MAN VS. WOLVERINE #1**—In East Berlin, Spidey finds out that spies play for keeps! But there's someone even more deadly—Wolverine! Written by JIM OWSLEY! Art by MARK BRIGHT and AL WILLIAMSON!
☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #299**
☐ **IRON MAN #215**—DAVID MICHELINIE and BOB LAYTON are back! And they got MARK BRIGHT with them!
☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #123**—With the Black Cat!
☐ **THOR #376**—A bone-breaking battle with the Absorbing Man!
☐ **TRANSFORMERS #25**
☐ **X-FACTOR #13**—Cyclops battles a Sentinel!
☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN #6**—Reprinting *X-Men #98*, with new material by CHRIS CLAREMONT and JOHN BOLTON.
☐ **G.I. JOE ORDER OF BATTLE (Limited Series) #4**—Also known as "G.I. Joe Universe!"
☐ **G.I. JOE DIGEST #2**

MARVEL MAGAZINES

☐ **MARVEL AGE #47**—The only place to go for info about everything you see here! Plus, behind the scenes at the New Universe!
☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #132**

EPIC COMICS

☐ **MOONSHADOW (Limited Series) #11**—The true tale of Ira's origin!
☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #24**
☐ **ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN (Limited Series) #5**—Elektra and Garrett take on SHIELD and Washington, D.C. By FRANK MILLER and BILL SIENKIEWICZ.
☐ **ALIEN LEGION #17**—Under suspicion of murder!
☐ **ELFQUEST #19**
☐ **STEELGRIP STARKEY (Limited Series) #3**—The latest and the greatest!

STAR COMICS

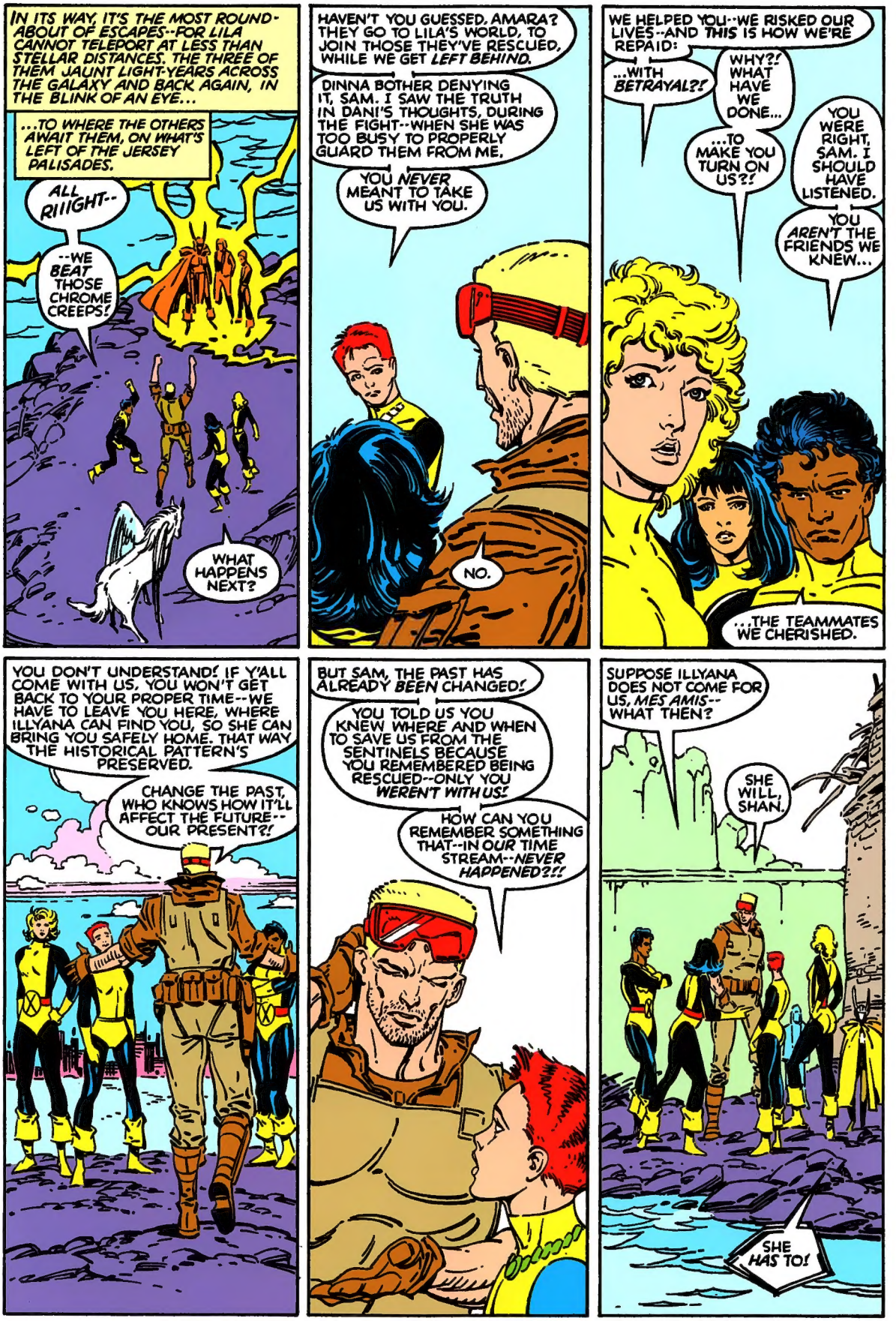
☐ **HUGGA BUNCH #3**—The Huglets disappear!
☐ **THUNDERCATS #8**
☐ **ANIMAX #2**—X-Tinctor and the Motor Mutants lay siege to the city of Animax!
☐ **HEATHCLIFF #14!**
☐ **DROIDS #6**—Guest-starring the entire "Star Wars" crew!
☐ **POPPLES #2**
☐ **TOP DOG #12**—Speechless!
☐ **STAR DIGEST #2**—With Heathcliff, Top Dog, Care Bears and more!

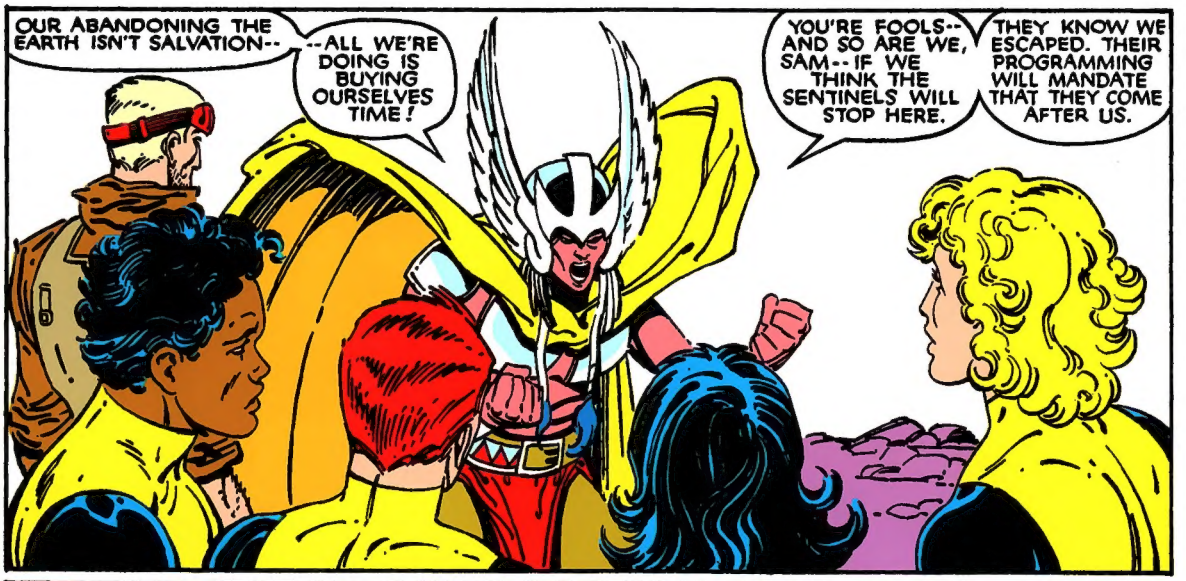
NEW UNIVERSE

☐ **NIGHT MASK #4**—She's alluring and deadly! She's Mistress Twilight! Night Mask must resist her . . . but can he?
☐ **PSI FORCE #4**—Kathy goes home . . . with incredible consequences!
☐ **KICKERS, INC. #4**—They fight dirty 'cause they're the *Fist*, and they're after Jack's head!
☐ **MERC #4**—Hazzard faces criminal charges as a result of the Philadelphia Debacle!
☐ **D.P. 7 #4**—The Displaced Paranormals find their lives in jeopardy when they cross paths with the "Wompus!"
☐ **JUSTICE #4**—Out on Exit 14, life gets tougher for Justice on our world . . . as we learn more about Justice's home world!
☐ **STAR BRAND #5**—A Mediterranean dictator has threatened drastic consequences for anyone who crosses his Line of Death! Enter Star Brand . . . !
☐ **SPITFIRE AND THE TROUBLESHOOTERS #5**—Star Brand must fight Spitfire, and the life of a Troubleshooter hangs in the balance!

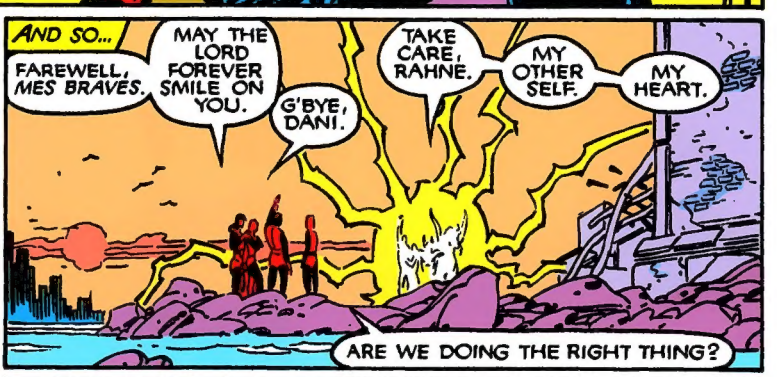
GRAPHIC NOVEL

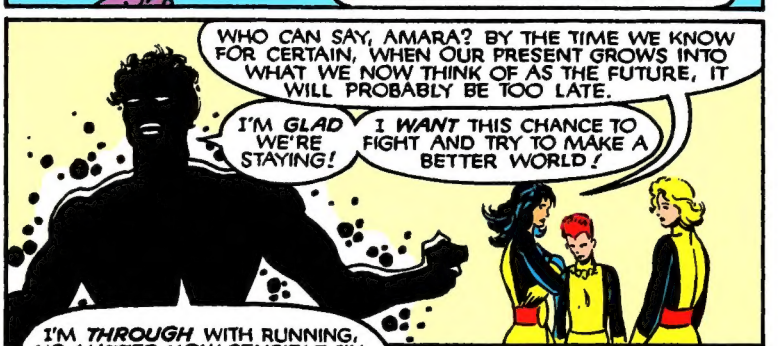
☐ **ALIEN LEGION: A GREY DAY TO DIE**—It's a story so dangerous that it had to be told in a Graphic Novel! The Legionnaires face their deadliest task! The world's on the brink of annihilation! And Death is on the prowl! Written by CARL POTTS and ALAN ZELENETZ. Art by FRANK CIROCCO and TERRY AUSTIN.


IN ITS WAY, IT'S THE MOST ROUND-ABOUT OF ESCAPES--FOR LILA CANNOT TELEPORT AT LESS THAN STELLAR DISTANCES. THE THREE OF THEM JAUNT LIGHT-YEARS ACROSS THE GALAXY AND BACK AGAIN, IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE...
...TO WHERE THE OTHERS AWAIT THEM, ON WHAT'S LEFT OF THE JERSEY PALISADES.
ALL RIIIGHT--
--WE BEAT THOSE CHROME CREEPS!
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
HAVEN'T YOU GUESSED, AMARA? THEY GO TO LILA'S WORLD, TO JOIN THOSE THEY'VE RESCUED, WHILE WE GET LEFT BEHIND.
DINNA BOTHER DENYING IT, SAM. I SAW THE TRUTH IN DANI'S THOUGHTS, DURING THE FIGHT--WHEN SHE WAS TOO BUSY TO PROPERLY GUARD THEM FROM ME.
YOU NEVER MEANT TO TAKE US WITH YOU.
NO.
WE HELPED YOU--WE RISKED OUR LIVES--AND THIS IS HOW WE'RE REPAID:
...WITH BETRAYAL?!
WHY?! WHAT HAVE WE DONE...
...TO MAKE YOU TURN ON US?!
YOU WERE RIGHT, SAM. I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED.
YOU AREN'T THE FRIENDS WE KNEW...
...THE TEAMMATES WE CHERISHED.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! IF Y'ALL COME WITH US, YOU WON'T GET BACK TO YOUR PROPER TIME--WE HAVE TO LEAVE YOU HERE, WHERE ILLYANA CAN FIND YOU, SO SHE CAN BRING YOU SAFELY HOME. THAT WAY THE HISTORICAL PATTERN'S PRESERVED.
CHANGE THE PAST, WHO KNOWS HOW IT'LL AFFECT THE FUTURE--OUR PRESENT?!
BUT SAM, THE PAST HAS ALREADY BEEN CHANGED!
YOU TOLD US YOU KNEW WHERE AND WHEN TO SAVE US FROM THE SENTINELS BECAUSE YOU REMEMBERED BEING RESCUED--ONLY YOU WEREN'T WITH US!
HOW CAN YOU REMEMBER SOMETHING THAT--IN OUR TIME STREAM--NEVER HAPPENED?!!
SUPPOSE ILLYANA DOES NOT COME FOR US, MES AMIS--WHAT THEN?
SHE WILL, SHAN.
SHE HAS TO!

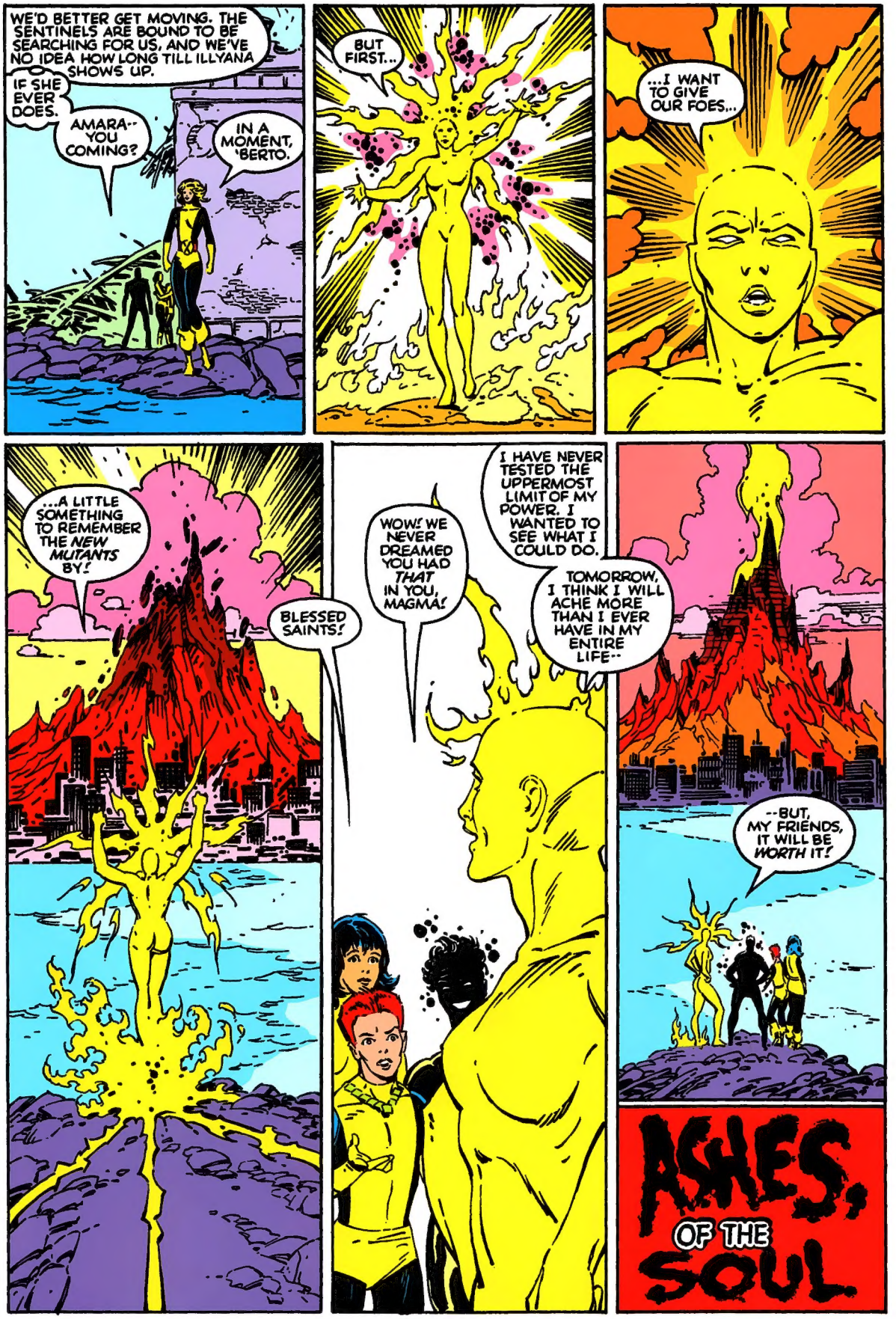

OUR ABANDONING THE EARTH ISN'T SALVATION--
--ALL WE'RE DOING IS BUYING OURSELVES TIME!
YOU'RE FOOLS-- AND SO ARE WE, SAM-- IF WE THINK THE SENTINELS WILL STOP HERE.
THEY KNOW WE ESCAPED. THEIR PROGRAMMING WILL MANDATE THAT THEY COME AFTER US.

IT MAY TAKE YEARS, EVEN CENTURIES-- WHAT DO THEY CARE, TIME MEANS NOTHING TO THEM-- BUT THEY WILL COME. I THINK, EVEN IF WE DESTROYED THE EARTH-- NOVA'D THE SUN-- WE COULDN'T STOP THEM.
THE PRESENT IS FINISHED-- AND THE FUTURE AS WELL-- OUR *ONLY* HOPE LIES IN THE PAST.
YOU'VE SEEN WHAT IS-- HAD A BITTER TASTE OF WHAT MIGHT BE--YOU CAN *CHANGE* WHAT WAS.
BUT ONLY IF YOU STAY.


AND SO...
FAREWELL, *MES BRAVES.*
MAY THE LORD FOREVER SMILE ON YOU.
G'BYE, DANI.
TAKE CARE, RAHNE.
MY OTHER SELF.
MY HEART.
ARE WE DOING THE RIGHT THING?


WHO CAN SAY, AMARA? BY THE TIME WE KNOW FOR CERTAIN, WHEN OUR PRESENT GROWS INTO WHAT WE NOW THINK OF AS THE FUTURE, IT WILL PROBABLY BE TOO LATE.
I'M *GLAD* WE'RE STAYING!
I *WANT* THIS CHANCE TO FIGHT AND TRY TO MAKE A BETTER WORLD!

I'M *THROUGH* WITH RUNNING, NO MATTER HOW SENSIBLE I'M TOLD IT IS. I'M SICK OF FOREVER PLAYING THE RABBIT! YOU ASK ME, BETTER BY FAR TO RISK EVERY-THING-- AND EVEN PERISH-- IN A NOBLE CAUSE!
EASILY SAID, ROBERT. BUT I HAVE KNOWN DEATH-- THE UNENDING HORROR OF WAR-- ALMOST MY WHOLE LIFE. I BELIEVED, IN AMERICA, I WOULD AT LAST KNOW A LITTLE PEACE. INSTEAD, I HAVE STUMBLED INTO ANOTHER WAR, THAT MAY ALREADY HAVE CLAIMED THE LIVES OF MY BROTHER AND SISTER.
DON'T THINK THAT, SHAN. THEY'RE ALL RIGHT, YOU'LL SEE, EVERYTHING'LL TURN OUT ALL RIGHT.
HOPE FOR THE BEST, RAHNE, NO MATTER WHAT?
AYE! ALWAYS!! SO LONG AS WE *HOPE*, ALL'S NA' LOST!


WE'D BETTER GET MOVING. THE SENTINELS ARE BOUND TO BE SEARCHING FOR US, AND WE'VE NO IDEA HOW LONG TILL ILLYANA SHOWS UP.
IF SHE EVER DOES.
AMARA-- YOU COMING?
IN A MOMENT, 'BERTO.
BUT FIRST...
...I WANT TO GIVE OUR FOES...
...A LITTLE SOMETHING TO REMEMBER THE NEW MUTANTS BY!
BLESSED SAINTS!
WOW! WE NEVER DREAMED YOU HAD THAT IN YOU, MAGMA!
I HAVE NEVER TESTED THE UPPERMOST LIMIT OF MY POWER. I WANTED TO SEE WHAT I COULD DO.
TOMORROW, I THINK I WILL ACHE MORE THAN I EVER HAVE IN MY ENTIRE LIFE--
--BUT, MY FRIENDS, IT WILL BE WORTH IT!
ASHES OF THE SOUL

MINUTEMEN
Quick
STOP
RST